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March 2007

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Halvor Moorshead
Editor & Publisher

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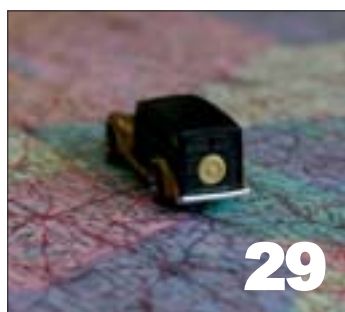


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Internet GENEALOGY

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What to Look Forward to in Upcoming Issues



Crossing The Ocean

You've been tracing your family tree for some time, making slow, but steady, progress in extending those branches. Then, all of a sudden, you hit a stumbling block — an enormous stumbling block known as the Atlantic Ocean.

Leslie Albrecht Huber shows you what to do next.

PLUS

- **Department of Veterans Affairs' Gravesite Locator**
- **Google News Archive Search**
- **UK National Burial Index**

*Articles mentioned here are planned for the next issue.
However, circumstances may affect the final content.*



Google Earth

Author Dan Lynch begins his article on Google Earth with an apology: "I'm sorry if, like me, you find yourself getting hooked on Google Earth after just one session of globe trotting and realize that you've never gotten to your actual research."

Lynch introduces you to a tool that will entertain and educate as you use it to research the home of your ancestors.

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Halvor Moorshead
Editor & Publisher

ONE YEAR ON

THIS ISSUE OF *Internet Genealogy* (IG) marks the end of our first year of publication. And what a year it has been! The subscription numbers are over twice what we anticipated and the newsstand sales are so good that many outlets sell out. We are now getting renewals and, to be honest, I was really nervous about what the results would be. Maybe we had just been good at selling the concept of the magazine — that would have resulted in good numbers of subscriptions but people will only renew if they like the product.

It's too early to know for sure how many subscribers will renew, but the results to date (12 December) have been amazing. Thank you to all of the subscribers who have shown such confidence in us.

We don't often talk about ourselves very much — that is, the people who bring you IG. I get the opportunity to tell you a bit about myself but what about the rest of the staff?

We are a small company — there are only seven of us — producing three magazines. We are totally independent of any other company or group. I think I can say that we are a happy group, we work hard, but very efficiently, and generally enjoy what we are doing.

Let me introduce you to the people who bring you IG:

Edward Zapletal has been with us since 1983. Currently he is our webmaster, technical expert and deals with the printers — plus many other roles. Ed was editor of a number of magazines that we produced in the past.

Rick Cree is the circulation manager and he, too, joined us in 1983. He handles the mail and shipping, manages the circulation lists, deals with the newsstands, etc.

Marian Wallis Moorshead looks after the money side, office matters and a host of related activities. Marian is also my wife.

Jeannette Cox has been with us for 12 years and is our in-house Martha Stewart (for her work, not her insider trading!). Jeannette handles a. reception; b. entering the subscription information; c. advertising and d. phone orders (and a lot more!).

Victoria King is one of the editors. Her main task is *History Magazine*, but she does plenty on *Family Chronicle* and *Internet Genealogy*. Victoria has been with us for nine years.

Marc Skulnick is the new boy — he has only been around for three years! Marc does a lot of the editing and design of the magazines.

Between us, we have well over 100 years of experience and, incidentally, we rather like each other!

— HALVOR MOORSHEAD

LETTERS: GEMS AND JEWELS

Thank you for your wonderful magazine. I have been working on my family genealogy for 33+ years. Because of the information in your May and July issues, I was able to break a brickwall. I had the courage to contact a German website and I hit the jackpot!

I now have my great-great-grandmother's history back to 1683 — documented in church records. What a find! I am ecstatic!

I tell everyone about your "jewel" of a magazine!

Sharon K. Keys

Just wanted to let you know that I picked up my first copy of *Internet Magazine*. What a gem, one of the best and [most] informative magazines. Wanted to say thanks to you and your staff.

Linda Crawford

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Net Notes

THE GENEALOGIST'S ADDRESS BOOK

www.epbentley.com/genaddbk.html

THE GENEALOGIST'S ADDRESS BOOK, a popular resource for genealogists and family historians, has recently been updated and is also available as a CD-ROM and as an e-book.

The Genealogist's Address Book provides researchers with names, addresses, telephone numbers, fax numbers, websites and e-mail addresses for some 28,000 organizations from archives to societies, religious organizations to special interest groups, and almost everything in between.

Author Elizabeth Petty Bentley has expanded the book to now include the *County Courthouse Book* (1995), and to cover more international

addresses. The website rightfully boasts that the fifth edition should be renamed *The Genealogist's and Historian's Address Book*, because it now includes many more primarily historical resources, such as the New York State town and village historians and numerous museum libraries.

The physical edition of this latest edition is 791 pages, and costs about \$50 US, plus shipping, the CD-ROM version 5.3, is approximately \$20 US plus shipping. The e-book is about \$20 US.

Purchasing the CD or e-book entitles the buyer to four fully updated versions of the database, sent via e-mail on a quarterly basis, as there are approximately 1,000 changes to the listings every month. — VICTORIA KING



Our Roots/Nos Racines

www.ourroots.ca

WHEREVER YOUR ANCESTORS LIVED, chances are that a local history has been written about the area, at some time. And, if that area happens to be in either Canada or the United States, chances are pretty good that the text of that book might be online, somewhere — with the odds increasing all the time. For locations in Canada, your best first place to check has got to be the Our Roots/Nos Racines website.

A “local history” is not like the textbooks we had to plow through in high school history class. They deal with a much smaller area — usually, just a village, city or county — and tend to focus more on the people. In fact, you will often find two or three generations of some families discussed.

Of course, even if you don't find specific mention of any of your own ancestors, there is immense value in simply knowing more about the community in which they lived, worked and socialized.

Available in both English and French — although

the digitized page images appear only in the language they were printed in — the Our Roots website claims to be “the world's largest digital collection of published Canadian local histories”.

The search function is available in both a “simple” form and a very comprehensive “advanced search”. If you are looking for a particular name, location or event, use the keyword search. You can search on “any words”, “all words”, “exact phrase”, “none of the words”... and even within a particular year or span of years.

Alternatively, you can browse by title, author or subject (recommended, due to some rather obscure titles in this field!).

Our Roots is one of my own favorites — uncluttered and fairly easy to navigate. And, with a choice of three different image resolutions (and, therefore, sizes), even someone with a lethargic dial-up connection can view plenty of pages in an evening.

— AL HENDERSON



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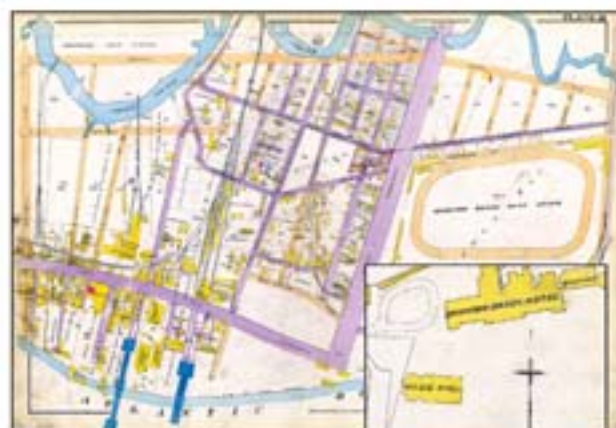
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NATIONAL ARCHIVE OF MEMORIAL INSCRIPTIONS (NAOMI)

www.memorialinscriptions.org.uk

FOR MANY FAMILY HISTORIANS, inscriptions on gravestones (memorial inscriptions or MIs) are a valuable source of information. In the UK, they are particularly useful in establishing family relationships for the period when there was no civil registration of births, marriages and deaths (this began in 1837) and no useful censuses (the first one with good records of individuals was that of 1841).

Before this time, the most important source of information was that of the parish registers, and here you are in the hands of the incumbent of the period and place. Sometimes the registers give some indication of relationships, often none, but MIs nearly always do this — “In affectionate remembrance of Sophia Robinson, daughter of David Robinson and Mary his wife.” This information enables you to build up your family tree.

The problem is that MIs are difficult to find, particularly for those living outside the UK. Where they have been recorded, they exist in a variety of formats, and there is no central database where they can be searched. It was to make MIs more accessible that the National Archive of Memorial Inscriptions (NAOMI) was recently set up, supported by Heritage Lottery funding.

The NAOMI website, which went online in November 2005, enables family historians to check, without charge, whether or not there are any memorial inscriptions from the UK which are relevant to their

researches. If you find what you want, then you can download and print not only the inscription itself, but also, if available: A brief description of the memorial; a photograph of the church or

chapel; a plan of the burial ground; and some historical information about the church as well. For this, the fee is between £4 and £7 (about \$7.50 to \$13 US), depending on how much information you choose to retrieve.

Finally, it has another purpose;

providers of the data are paid by the system of royalties out of the income generated by those who make use of the site.

At present NAOMI is working with the Norfolk Family History Society, but it will be expanding into other areas when it has done

all it can in this country. There are already more than 100,000 names from some 300 burial grounds in the database, with as many again already digitized, awaiting checking, formatting and inputting. Most



The NAOMI website, shown above, allows you to search for your UK ancestors' memorial inscriptions free of charge. Memorial inscriptions, like the one shown right, can be a valuable source of information and often give indications of relationships, helping you to build your family tree.



Old church cemetery, Bramber, Sussex

of these are inscriptions from parish churchyards, but they also include nonconformist burial grounds, war memorials and cemeteries.

The more the site is used, the more rapidly this process will be carried out, so as to make it increasingly useful to family

historians, especially those who live a great distance from the UK. — **DR. RICHARD SMART** is the Director of the National Archive of Memorial Inscriptions

To encourage the recording and saving of the inscriptions, which are such a valuable source of information for family historians, and yet are vulnerable to weather and vandalism. To achieve this,

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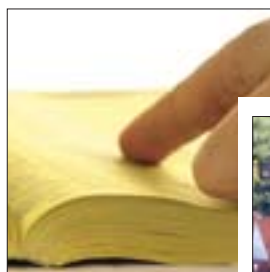
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FREE, ALL-NEW ISSUE of
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600,000 CANADIAN SOLDIERS OF WWI

www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/020106_e.html

IN APRIL 1914, JUST four months before the start of WWI, the Canadian standing army numbered only 3,110 men and 684 horses. There was little need for a larger regular army as there was no external threat and Canada



Archives Canada website.

Two members of my distant family completed these forms. John Morshead, born in England and then 26 years old, signed up on 21 August 1914 in the first flush of enthusiasm. Wilson Miles Morshead signed on in April 1918. Although he was born in Canada, he gives his address as Malden, Massachusetts. I have no idea why he signed on with the Canadian army rather than the US forces.



had, for a hundred years, been a relatively peaceful place.

There had been a couple of minor rebellions and a few thousand Canadians had served in the Boer War in South Africa, but these amounted to little compared to the wars fought by the Americans and the British during the same period.

Despite this peaceful history, when WWI broke out in August 1914, there was an outpouring of enthusiasm for war. In 1914, Canada's constitution allowed Britain to declare war on her behalf, the Canadians had no say, but this does not seem to have bothered the people. The response for volunteers was extraordinary. From a nation of just eight million, 600,000 signed up — a truly staggering proportion representing one in seven of all males!

The attestation forms of these volunteers can all be viewed, free of charge, on the Library and

ATTESTATION PAPER.	
1st Report on 1st C.O.R.	
CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.	
QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.	
1. What is your surname?	MORSHEAD
1a. What are your Christian names?	Wilson Miles
1b. What is your present address?	49 Potter St., Malden, Mass., U.S.A.
2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born?	Lower Stewiacke, N. S. Canada
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin?	Permanas Wellington Morshead
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin?	49 Potter St., Malden, Mass., U.S.A.
4a. What is the relationship of your next-of-kin?	Father
5. What is the date of your birth?	June, 24th, 1896
6. What is your Trade or Calling?	Druggist Employee
7. Are you married?	Single

These attestation papers can be of more use than their obvious one. The Canadian 1911 census is only partially indexed at this time although the images can be viewed. These attestation papers represent someone from every two or three families and so can be used for finding where a family lived, making it possible to search the census for further information.

Unlike WWII, French Canadians were as enthusiastic about the Great War as the English Canadians, so these documents are representative of the country as a whole.

— HALVOR MOORSHEAD 

Examples of the recruiting posters which resulted in 600,000 Canadians volunteering during WWI. Left: Attestation paper for Wilson Miles Morshead, who signed on in April 1918.



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INTERNET GENEALOGY SURVEY

We really do pay attention to readers' comments and suggestions — they help us to make the magazine better. It's the end of our first year, and we'd like to hear from YOU! Please take a few minutes to participate in our survey. The survey is conducted by Zoomerang, which ensures confidentiality. We have a link on our website to the questionnaire at:

www.internet-genealogy.com/survey6.htm

We'll ask you about 15 questions. Your answers are completely confidential — we will not know who takes part, so please do not ask for responses when completing this survey; we will be unable to reply to you. We also welcome more specific feedback. Please send your comments to publisher@moorshead.com. We promise we will read every one of your comments.

Morse Code: Streamline Your Online Research

BY NOW, MOST avid genealogists are familiar with the name Stephen P. Morse and his One-Step Webpages, www.stevemorse.org. In 2001, Morse made a huge impact on the genealogical world with a few search forms he uploaded online to make it easier to find elusive ancestors in the Ellis Island Database (EIDB), www.ellis island.org. One researcher discovered the forms and told another, who informed somebody else and so on. Soon, everyone was using the Morse website as a key tool to navigate the EIDB and the more than 22 million immigrants, passengers and crew members who came through Ellis Island and the Port of New York from 1892 to 1924.

If you're new to genealogy, or you haven't visited Morse's site lately, you will be delighted to learn that Morse has continued to create customized search forms for other databases. In fact, the Morse website now has forms for everything from passenger lists (through multiple ports) and New York City vital records to public records among his one-step search tools. This article provides an overview of many of the site's useful features.

ACCESSING THE SITE

In your web browser's address field, be sure to type www.stevemorse.org, not www.stevemorse.com. If you type in the ".com" extension, you will be taken to the website of guitarist Steve Morse of Deep Purple fame!

WHY "ONE-STEP" TOOLS?

If you're wondering why you would want to use one website to search databases located on another website that already has its own search capabilities, just click on the "About this Website and how to use it" link at the top of the site's main page. In summary, Morse notes, "Unfortunately, many of these sites are not easy to use. And

WHERE TO BEGIN?

Once you get to the One-Step web pages and see all the wonderful tools available, you may find yourself a little overwhelmed.

The tools are organized into 12 main folders — indicated with a folder icon — with various forms listed underneath each main folder. You will find yellow "step" icons listed next to each form. A

those that are, don't always offer all the versatility that is possible. For that reason I have created alternate ways of accessing some of these sites. In addition, I have developed some of my own applications to facili-

tate doing genealogical research. These are all collected together under what I call the One-Step Website... They provide more powerful interfaces for searching existing databases."

dollar sign (\$) indicates a paid subscription to the host site is required to do further research. Listed below are the main folders or categories with the number of choices in parentheses:

- Ellis Island Search Forms and Ship Arrivals (1892-1924) (11)
- Castle Garden (and earlier) Search Forms and Ship Arrivals (1820-1891) (10)
- Other Ports of Immigration (17)
- US Census and Soundex (13)
- Canadian and British Census (5)
- New York Census (2)
- Births, Deaths, and other Vital Records (18)
- Calendar, Sunrise/Sunset, Maps (12)
- Dealing with Characters in Foreign Alphabets (17)
- Holocaust and Eastern Europe (3)
- Creating your own Search

Forms, Search Engines and Databases (8)

- Miscellaneous (14)

Once you've reviewed the large collection of One-Step tools available, schedule some time to experiment with those most relevant to your research.

TRYING THE TOOLS

It would be impossible to cover, in detail, all the forms/tools available on the Morse site. However, in order to illustrate the functionality of some of the forms, here are a few specific examples of how I used the One-Step search tools to streamline my online family history research.

ELLIS ISLAND SEARCH FORMS AND SHIP ARRIVALS (1892-1924)

I have used both the "White forms" and the "Gray forms" countless times to find many elusive ancestors in the EIDB. If you are searching for Jewish passengers and you have reason to believe that they were identified as such in the database, then, as noted by Morse, the "Blue form" is the preferable one to use. This form searches for Jewish passengers only, has unrestricted town search and unrestricted sounds-like search, and supports some additional search parameters. To decide which form to use, click on the link: "Overview: Which Ellis Island Search Form to Use".

"WHITE" FORM

The EIDB White form searches all passengers, has a very restricted town search and a somewhat restricted "sounds-like" search capability. Morse created this form with major contributions from Dr. Yves Goulnik. This form comes in handy when you need to perform an "Exact Town" search or you are trying to weed out unnecessary results and look for similar names in the database.

To perform an exact town search, go to the "Town Name" field near the top of the page, just below the "Ship Name" field. To enter a town name, it must be spelled (or misspelled as the case may be) exactly as it appears in the EIDB for the passenger you are seeking. Morse uses the example that if the person you are looking for came from Brest-Litovsk, and it is entered as "Br. Litovsk, Poland" in the EIDB, you must enter it exactly that way on the search form — including the period, comma,

country name and all spaces. Of course, you have no way of knowing in advance exactly how it was entered — the country might have been entered as Russia instead of Poland, the country name might have been left off altogether, Brest might have been written in full and not abbreviated, Litovsk might have been spelled Litofsk, etc. So this search-by-town feature is of limited use.

SIMILAR NAMES IN DATABASE (WHITE FORM)

The White form allows you to do "sounds-like" searches on the last name only. But it does not use Soundex. (Soundex is a phonetic algorithm for indexing names by their sound when pronounced in English.) The Soundex Code consists of the first letter of the name followed by three digits, and helps genealogists identify spelling variations for a given surname. Instead, Morse's White form generates a list of all names that are known to be in the database, and that sound like the name you are interested in, and then searches for all passengers having those names. There are pros and cons to using this option. An advantage over Soundex is that it looks only for names known to be in the database. On the other hand, however, it isn't as effective because the list of names is limited, which means that not all similar-sounding names will be found.

I used the White form to look for an ancestor with an exotic-sounding surname, Mastiylak, that is also frequently misspelled or can have any number of alternate spellings. From other records previously searched, I was not able to locate a specific town or village of origin and only knew this ancestor was documented as coming to the US from Austria. Doing a town search using Morse's Gray form, therefore, would not be of much help to me. Using the White form, I typed in the last name as I believed it was spelled, *Masztziylak*, and left the first name field blank, as well as all of the other fields — the name is a bit unusual and probably would not return a large number of results. Note that with the White form, there is no required field, not even the last name. However, you may need to narrow your own searches accordingly by completing some of the other fields.

After I typed in the last name, I then tried to search using three of the options with the following results:

Once you've reviewed the One-Step tools available, schedule some time to experiment with those most relevant to your research.

- Sounds like few (too narrow) — only three results
- Sounds like many (reasonable) — 40 results

Next, I tried the search again by using a first initial N for “Nicholas” and obtained 118 results, which I could then narrow further by typing in “Nic” next to “starts with” and obtained 47 results. I also tried the “starts with” field with “Mik” because I know that “Mikolas”

used the Gray form on the Morse site and typed in “Straka” for the surname and selected the “sounds like” option. Then under town, I typed in *Milpos* and again used the “sounds like” option. There were nine results, and I found her in number five:

Name: Straka, Marcia
Residence: Henig Milpos, Hungary
Arrived: 1907
Age: 23

I had missed her in my initial searches because I had been searching for “Maria Straka”, not even thinking she would appear as “Marcia”. It was the town search that enabled me to pinpoint her record.

SEARCH TIP

While searching, you may find that you will need to switch back and forth between Morse’s forms until you get the right mix. For additional help, click on the “Frequently Asked Questions” tab, located on any of the forms, www.jewishgen.org/databases/eidb/faq.htm.

BALTIMORE PASSENGER LISTS

When I began researching my paternal grandmother’s family, I checked for the passenger arrival records for my grandmother, Elizabeth Fencsak Alzo and her siblings, including Anna and Mary. I located my grandmother and Anna in the EIDB without too much effort. Mary, however, proved elusive. I just could not seem to find her in the EIDB, no matter what search parameters I entered. I also tried the immigration collection at Ancestry.com using the various search options — still no luck. Around the same time, I discovered that Morse had a search tool for passenger records from other ports of entry. I decided to try the “Searching the Baltimore Passenger Lists in One Step” form in conjunction with my Ancestry.com subscription. I typed the name “Fencak” in the Last Name box and selected “Sounds Like”. For the first name, I chose “Starts With” and entered the first three letters, “Mar”, which would pick up “Mary” or “Maria.” Fifty-four results were returned and to my delight I found the following:

Name: Maria Fenisak
Arrival Date: Feb 1909
Age: 18 years 0 months
Estimated Birth Year: 1891
Gender: Female
Race: Slovak

Searching the Baltimore Passenger Lists in One Step for Maria Fencak using “Sounds Like” option.

and “Mikulas” are Czech and Slovak variations of “Nicholas,” and found nine results. Although I am still searching for additional evidence to prove if any of the results were for my ancestor, by using Morse’s White form, I was able to significantly narrow the possibilities of determining whether or not he did arrive at Ellis Island.

Unfortunately, you cannot use the town search and the name-sounds-like search on the White form at the same time. There is no such limitation on the Gray or Blue forms.

GRAY FORM

The Gray form search tool was created through the efforts of Morse, Michael Tobias, Erik Steinmetz and David Bendory. I can cite several instances when using Morse’s Gray form to perform a town search helped me find an ancestor I could not previously find by simply searching the database (this was before the EIDB had the capability to perform town searches). I initially could not find my maternal grandmother’s sister, Mary Straka, in the EIDB, so since I knew her village of origin, Milpos, Hungary (now present-day Slovakia), I

Port of Departure: Bremen, Germany
Ship Name: Rhein
Port of Arrival: Baltimore, Maryland
Friend's Name: Jabel Kirsner
Last Residence: Hungary

SOCIAL SECURITY DEATH RECORDS

One of the first databases genealogists should look at is the US Social Security Death Index (SSDI). However, don't assume that just because your ancestor had a social security number that he or she will be listed in this database. Typically, when a person dies, the funeral home or the family sends in a form to notify the Social Security Administration about the death. Usually the person is entered in the SSDI database at that time. However, every month the Social Security Administration runs a program to check for all death certificates issued that month. If it finds the death from this program prior to being notified by the funeral home or family member, then the person's name will never appear in the SSDI.

And, even if the proper notification was made to the Social Security Administration, it might take a few months before the online versions of the SSDI database are updated to include that death. In addition, many deaths in the 1950s are not in the SSDI because they were recorded in an obsolete format. Morse explains on his site that you can obtain these records by calling the Social Security Administration directly, toll-free in the US, at 1-800-772-1213.

There are several sites (both free and subscription-based) that genealogists may use to search the SSDI directly, including: Ancestry.com, www.ancestry.com; Family Search Family Tree Legends, www.familytreelegends.com; Genealogy.com, www.genealogy.com; New England Ancestors, www.newenglandancestors.org and RootsWeb, www.rootsweb.com.

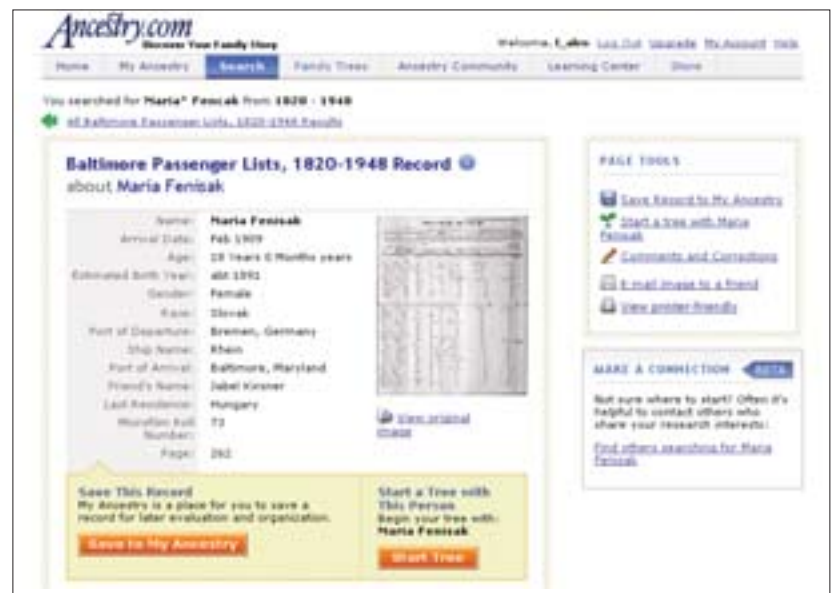
If you've already searched the online SSDI using one or more of these sites, you might have discovered that an individual may appear in one version and not in another. While all the databases get their data from the same source, there might be an updating delay in the various search engines, so one might be more recent than another.

Morse's site will not perform the search for you because there is not a search engine, nor does the site have a

copy of the SSDI data. Instead, his application allows you to link to existing sites that do perform the searches. For one of them, RootsWeb, his site provides added value through what he calls "RootsWeb Plus". On his site, Morse explains that "No search engine is perfect. Each has a different flaw." RootsWeb Plus is his attempt to generate one search engine that combines the desirable features of all the others. This is the default search engine used by his search form (it uses RootsWeb as the starting point with modifications of its search engine). Note, however, that you can select any of the other sites as well. You can read more about how Morse created RootsWeb Plus, by going to www.stevemorse.org/ssdi/faq1.htm#11.

I tried the SSDI search tool with my surname, Alzo. I wanted to see how many of the sites have been recently updated to include my father, John, who passed away in November 2005. I tried the default RootsWeb Plus, first and then tried the other sites. I obtained

**One of
the first
databases
genealogists
should look
at is the US
Social
Security
Death Index.**



the following results for listings of the surname "Alzo" (number of results listed in parentheses):

Default: RootsWebPlus (7) John was included

- 1 JEAN ALZO
- 2 GEORGE ALZO
- 3 MIKE ALZO
- 4 ELIZABETH ALZO
- 5 JOHN A ALZO JR
- 6 ANNA ALZO
- 7 CAMILLA ALZO

I know that six out of the seven results are folks from my family tree.

There's an important caveat when

Ancestry.com record showing pertinent details of Maria Fenisak's arrival at Baltimore, February 1909.

using the SSDI tool. As Morse explains, the way his software searches on birth and death ranges is to do repeated searches for each year in the range. The

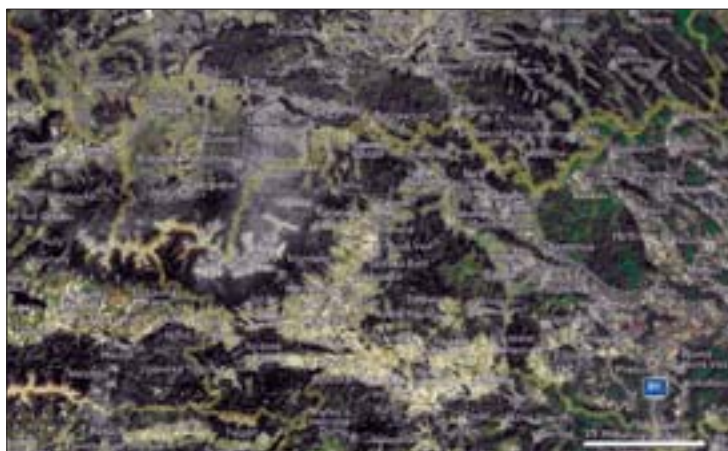
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Searching for Town OSTURNA
(D-M code 043960)
Run on Thursday 20 April 2006 at 06:53:58
For an online Map click on **Expediamaps** or **MapQuest** or **MUitimap**

Town (Native names in BOLD)	Coordinates	Maps	Country	Distance/Direction from reference point	10 mile radius
Ostrany	48°30' 20"03"	EM U	Slovakia	136.8 miles ENE of Bratislava	+
Osturnia	49°20' 20"14"	EM U	Slovakia	163.7 miles ENE of Bratislava	+

Above; results from a ShetlSeeker search for town of "Osturna" in Slovakia at www.jewishgen.org. Right: Aerial photo of Osturna, Slovakia, based on the coordinates from ShetlSeeker, helps to pinpoint the location of this ancestral village.



same goes for partial first and last names of less than three characters. If you use too many of these features together, the number of repeated searches can get quite large and the search time might get prohibitive. To get the best results, use these combinations prudently.

SEARCHING THE POLISH INDEX OF THE REPRESSED IN ONE STEP

One of the more interesting tools I tried is the "Searching the Polish Index of the Repressed in One Step (Polish Citizens deported to Soviet Forced-Labor Camps in Siberia)" tool. I searched for various surnames from my family, and to my surprise, discovered an entry for one of them, Figlar. "Figlar Jakub (Father) Andrzej born: 1882 Aresztowani na Bialorusi i Ukrainie 1939-1941." This gives me another area to explore in my family history research.



Lisa A. Alzo teaches online genealogy classes for MyFamily.com and the National Institute for Genealogical Studies, and is a frequent speaker at national conferences and genealogical and historical societies. She can be reached at: www.lisaalzo.com.

MAPS

The "Getting Road Maps and Aerial Photos in One Step" page presents you with a road map, contour map or aerial photo of practically any place on Earth. You can select the location from a large list of cities, or you can enter its coordinates (latitude and longitude).

One nice application for genealogists with Jewish roots is to obtain an aerial photo of the ancestral *shtetl* (town or village). Most likely the town or village you seek will be too small to be on the list of cities, so you'll need to determine its coordinates using the Shtetl Seeker at www.jewishgen.org.

For example, to obtain an aerial photo of Osturna in Slovakia — where my mother's father came from — I first visited www.jewishgen.org and clicked on the ShtetlSeeker link to get the coordinates of Osturna: 49

degrees 20 minutes north latitude and 20 degrees 14 minutes east longitude.

Next, I entered that on the One-Step map site to obtain an aerial photograph of Osturna.

ONE-STEP WEBSITE DEVELOPMENTS

The One-Step website has undergone several changes since its inception. If you would like to see some archival copies of what the site looked like during different periods, simply scroll down to the very last link on the page: "One-Step Archives: Changes to "Look & Feel" of One-Step Website" or go to www.stevemorse.org/archives.html.

ferent periods, simply scroll down to the very last link on the page: "One-Step Archives: Changes to "Look & Feel" of One-Step Website" or go to www.stevemorse.org/archives.html.

GIVE IT A TRY

If you haven't explored all the great tools on the Morse website, schedule some time for a session of savvy searching. With any luck, you'll find a result you may have missed the first time around when searching other online databases. A bit of exploring may be all that it takes for you to locate even your most elusive ancestors!





GEDCOM — THAT ubiquitous acronym for GENEalogical Data COMMUNICATIONS — is the standard computer file format family historians use to exchange information.

BRIEF BACKGROUND

During the 1980s, as many genealogists began using microcomputers, programmers began developing genealogy database software. The Genealogical Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) developed the earliest versions of Personal Ancestral File (PAF). They sought ways for PAF users to easily submit copies of their data to the centralized databases in Salt Lake City, and to exchange data directly with other researchers.

The primary difficulty was that genealogists were already using a variety of incompatible types of microcomputer operating systems, which created a need for some type of common data format that could be used on every computer.

This led to the development of the GEDCOM format, designed to transfer genealogical data in a “plain text” format that could be directly viewed and edited by human beings without the need for special software. The new format soon proved popular enough that nearly every genealogy program added the ability to import and export GEDCOM-format files. Today, no popular genealogy program lacks GEDCOM import/export capabilities. Note: Although the most accurate reference is to a “GEDCOM-format file”, you will hear and see it commonly abbreviated as a “GEDCOM file”, and even more casually as a “GEDCOM”. Consider them synonymous.

VIEWING THE FILE

The typical GEDCOM-format file appears on a Windows system as a “.ged” file. If you already have

such a file, you can view it directly by opening it with any text editing software already on your PC, such as Notepad, WordPad or Microsoft Word. Let’s assume that you use Notepad to look at the file. What you see may seem a bit odd (if not unintelligible). Your file may begin with something like this:

```
0 HEAD
1 SOUR FTW
2 VERS Family Tree Maker 2005
    (12.0.345 SP1) August 20, 2004
2 NAME Family Tree Maker 2005
    for Windows
2 CORP MyFamily.com, Inc.
2 ADDR 360 W 4800 N
2 CONT Provo, UT 84604
3 PHON (801) 705-7000
1 DEST PAF
1 DATE 12 JAN 2007
1 CHAR ANSI
1 SUBM @SUBM@
1 FILE C:\Genealogy\FTW\GED
    \HoraceKope.ged
1 GEDC
2 VERS 5.5
2 FORM LINEAGE-LINKED
```

Each line begins with a number followed by a field identifier in all capital letters, and then the information for that field. Translated into American English, we get:

```
0 HEAD [the header (beginning)
of the file]
1 SOUR [the source of the file
(brand of software), and what fol-
lows are details about that soft-
ware, until we reach the next line
that starts with a “1”]
2 VERS [the version of the soft-
ware used to create the file]
2 NAME [the name of the soft-
ware used to create the file]
2 CORP [the name of the corpora-
tion that produced the software]
3 ADDR [the beginning of the
address for the corporation]
4 CONT [the corporation had a
multi-line address so it is contin-
```

```
ued on this line]
3 PHON [the phone number of the
corporation]
1 DEST [the destination of the file
for this software]
1 DATE [the file was created on
this date]
1 CHAR [the file uses this type of
computer character set]
1 SUBM [the file was submitted by
the individual described later]
1 FILE [where the file physically
resides on the original computer]
1 GEDC [what follows are details of
the kind of GEDCOM-format used]
2 VERS [the specific version of the
GEDCOM-format used]
2 FORM [the form of the data,
such as “lineage-linked”, meaning
that the data consists of individu-
als linked together into families]
```

At the very end (trailer) of the file will be “0 TRLR”. What goes between the header and the trailer? The bulk of the file consists of information about each individual, for example:

```
0 @I0001@ INDI
1 NAME Horace /Kope/
1 SEX M
1 BIRT
2 DATE 26 JUN 1924
2 PLAC Lincoln, Pawnee County,
    NE
1 DEAT
2 DATE 18 MAR 1999
2 PLAC Anaheim, Orange County,
    CA
1 REFN 1
1 FAMS @F0001@
1 FAMC @F0443@
```

Each individual is identified by a unique ID number, followed by the person’s name (with the surname surrounded by slashes), sex, birth information, death information, a unique reference number, and the list of families to which the person is linked. Each family is also identified by a unique

number. A typical individual will be linked to at least two families: the one in which he or she is a spouse/parent (whether legally married or not), which is marked with FAMS, and the one into which he or she was born (marked with FAMC). S indicates Spouse; C indicates Child.

See? Now this isn't so difficult, is it?

Following all the data in the file about individuals, we come to the section of the file that has information about the families (with marriage date/place and list of parents and children). Here is an example:

```
0 @F0001@ FAM
1 HUSB @I0001@
1 WIFE @I1112@
1 CHIL @I1592@
1 CHIL @I1703@
1 MARR
2 DATE 31 OCT 1944
2 PLAC Chicago, Cook County, IL
```

This means that we could look in the part of the file that has information about individuals and locate individuals #0001, #1112, #1592, and #1703 to learn details about the husband, wife and children. I think you can determine when and where the parents were married.

GEDCOM TOOLS

Although you can view GEDCOM-format files directly, it would be tedious to do so. Besides, there is plenty of software available to help us view and edit existing GEDCOM-format files and even create new ones. As already mentioned, all current genealogy database software can import and export GEDCOM-format files. This includes two popular free programs: Legacy Family Tree 5.0 Standard Edition, available from www.legacyfamilytree.com; and Personal Ancestral File (PAF) 5.2, available from www.familysearch.org.

Besides these two, which are both full-featured genealogy database programs, there are a few free utility programs designed to do nothing more than work with GEDCOM-format files. One advantage of these simpler utilities is that they run quickly without

unnecessary extra features. One of the best such programs is Mudcreek Software's GENViewer Lite 1.11 at www.mudcreek.ca.

When you use GENViewer Lite to open a GEDCOM-format file, it displays the header information in a very easy-to-read format, together with the information about the submitter, the general information about the file (including size, creation date and time, total number of individuals and total number of marriages). That information appears in the "General" view, but you can switch to an "Individual" view or a "Family" view. The Individual view is quite helpful, as it lists not only the parents, spouses and children, but indicates how old the individual was at the time of marriage and at the birth of each child (and how old the parents were at the time of the individual's birth). You can switch between a non-chronological display (birth, christening, death, burial, parents, spouse and children) and a chronological display.

Any notes that you have associated with the individual (or with any members of the family) are "automatically" displayed at the bottom of the screen. The Family view looks like a combination pedigree chart and family group sheet. I love it! Clicking on any individual on any of these screens makes that individual the "active" individual, so that moving from child to parent or from spouse to spouse is intuitive and fast.

TURNING THE GEDCOM INTO A WEBSITE

Would you like to turn your GEDCOM-format into a set of web pages? One easy way to do that is to use PAF 5.2. Under its Tools menu, you can select "Create Web Page...", although the description is somewhat misleading, because you can use this feature to create an entire site. You can select an individual and his or her descendants, or an individual and his other ancestors, or nearly any other set of individuals from your file. You can even select just the people you want, then let PAF do the rest of the work. Not only can

you create an index page with individuals and surnames on it, but you can also include a download link for the GEDCOM-format file itself, which is very nice if you are a novice to HTML, CSS and other intricacies of web page development.

Legacy 5.0 also allows for the creation of a website from your GEDCOM-format file, and Legacy also uses the confusing language "Web page" when it means the entire site. Compared to PAF, the choices provided by Legacy for your website are far more numerous, perhaps to the point of being overwhelming for the novice.

If you want something really simple, designed to do nothing more than turn a GEDCOM-format file into a website, you may want to look at Wade Oram's Ged2Web 3.35, available at www.wtoram.co.uk/ged2web/ged2web.htm. It quickly turns your file into multiple pages, indexed by both surname and by name of individual. You can easily choose to have many small pages, or only a few really large pages. Ged2Web gives you many options for controlling who appears on your website and what information is displayed, although it is fairly limited in options for controlling the appearance of the site. (If you understand the CSS language, you do have the option of linking to a CSS stylesheet file.)

Another fast and free utility is Mike DeBacker's UncleGED 7.0, available from <http://gatheringleaves.org/uged/>. In less than two minutes, UncleGED reads most GEDCOM-format files and turns them into a set of web pages, with a table of contents allowing you to choose a family page, an alphabetical list of individuals, a bibliography of the sources used in the file or an alphabetical list of surnames.

CAUTION!

GEDCOM-format files can be imported (or merged) directly into your existing data files. Don't do it! Let's weigh the benefits and shortcomings to see what I'm talking about:

Benefit: The imported data is immediately added to your exist-

ing data, and swiftly, too!

Disadvantages: You could have duplicate information that you will have to purge, you often will import mistakes from sloppy or lazy researchers, and lastly, there is also the possibility of a virus that can destroy all your hard work.

OVERCOMING THE DISADVANTAGES

The ways to overcome the disadvantages are: Use a GEDCOM Viewer to preview the data first. This will detect any virus and allow you to review the information for mistakes or duplication. Also, Progeny Software's GEDmark, *www.progenysoftware.com*, (\$9.95 US download, or \$14.95 US on CD) can mark or stamp the source information on each record in the GEDCOM file before you import it into your family file. Then when you merge records you know from whence the data came. This feature is also included in RootsMagic and Legacy Family Tree.

MERGE DUPLICATE RECORDS

If you import data to an existing

family file, it's important to merge duplicates. The same person might appear twice, with one record linked to his ancestors and another one linked to his descendants. Most programs can identify potential matches and merge them automatically or manually. I recommend merging manually to give you more control of the decisions.

SUMMARY

GEDCOM-format files are a special kind of plain text file, which means that you could open one using software already on your PC (such as Notepad). If you decide to open a GEDCOM-format file with something like Notepad, with a little effort you can understand the contents. Also, any genealogy database can import (read) and export (create) GEDCOM-format files, including free programs such as PAF 5.2 and Legacy 5.0 Standard Edition.


You can use GENViewer Lite, a free utility that quickly reads and displays a GEDCOM-format file and use PAF and Legacy Standard

Edition to turn a GEDCOM-format file into a website. Both Ged2Web and UncleGED are free utilities that are designed specifically to turn a GEDCOM-format file into a website. You can save both time and money using free utility programs to do one thing, and do it well, when working with GEDCOM-format files.

When you get the "urge to merge" your data, preview it first, and mark/stamp it to help identify the source of each piece of information.



Dae Powell is a genealogist with a background that includes military intelligence, program design and analysis, psychology and grapho-analysis. Putting these skills together with history, geography, record analysis and various languages has enabled him to document his ancestors and those of many others. He can be reached at DaePowell@aol.com.



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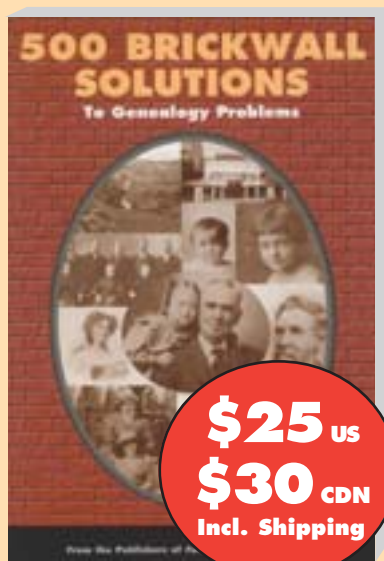
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23 Websites To *Fire Up* Your Family History



LISA A. ALZO LOOKS AT 23 WEBSITES GUARANTEED TO MAKE YOUR GENEALOGY RESEARCH SIZZLE!

NO HOBBY HAS CAUGHT fire in the past several years as much as genealogy. The Internet has been the catalyst with the proliferation of online databases, search tools, photobases, portals and other websites that have sparked the interest of novice researchers; and fueled the passion for those of us already addicted to the process of hunting for our ancestors.

And since the Internet is such a dynamic and ever-changing medium, new sites are starting up all the time, while updated content is constantly being added to the websites we've come to take for granted or have searched routinely. So whether you're a beginner or an expert, this article highlights some of the hottest places on the web to perform your research. Some of the sites are new; others have been around for years but, with recent upgrades, are worth a second look. Because

of the wealth of genealogical information available on the web, it was difficult to decide which sites to include. But here are 23 sites that will make your research sizzle. Proceed with caution; if you get too many results, you could see smoke rising from your computer's monitor!

1. ABEBOOKS

www.abebooks.com

AbeBooks, the world's largest online marketplace for books, lists more than 100 million new, used, rare and out-of-print books from more than 13,500 booksellers. Use the search box on the homepage to find the book you want by author, title, keyword or ISBN. Advanced search allows you to look for books by other criteria such as price, publisher or attribute (e.g. first edition, signed). For queries resulting in too many books, you can use the "Narrow Your

Results" tools to refine your search by more specific criteria. For example, by typing in the keyword "genealogy", you will get 155,643 results. You can narrow the results by searching for "New Books Only" (16,302 results), further narrow for example, by "Softcover" (3,210 results) and then by "Seller Location", "USA" and "NY" (295 results). Users can find rare books at bargain prices from this service. You can register for a book you're looking for and you'll receive an e-mail if it is ever listed anywhere on AbeBooks. Better yet, signing up is free! If your family is mentioned in any book, it is well worth registering.

2. ABOUT.COM/GENEALOGY

Guide Kimberly Powell offers tips to break down your genealogy brickwalls through how-to articles, free genealogy lessons, genealogy chat, the latest news,

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and product and website reviews, as well as an extensive list of online genealogical resources.

3. ACCESS GENEALOGY

www.accessgenealogy.com

This free genealogy resource provides information on how and where to locate key genealogical records such as cemetery, census, military and vital records, among others. Free genealogy charts are also available, as well as family tree and surname searches, and sections on genealogy books for sale and genealogy books online. The site also has useful information on specialty records. For example: The African-American records section provides extensive listings of available free resources online for African-American ancestral research, the Bible records section contains a listing of the available online Bible records, listed by geographical area, a Native-American records section (the site claims to be “the premier resource online for Native American Records” including tribal histories, final rolls, census and an extensive collection of online books), a United States genealogy section organized by state and a world genealogy section organized by country. Two interesting links on this site are the “Biographies”, organized by state, and a “Bundle of Old Letters”, history and life as shown through historical letters in blog format.

4. ANCESTOR HUNT

www.ancestorhunt.com

The free genealogy search engines on Ancestor Hunt enable you to search for ancestors and locate your family surnames in some of the largest databases of genealogy records online. Their unique genealogy searches include the surname search portal and the obituary search portal. The site indicates that US genealogy searches for each state are being developed that will search vast amounts of data across the web simply by entering a surname; revealing obituaries and genealogy data from various genealogy databases and other genealogy and obituary sources. One of the

most popular sections is the Bible records transcriptions and images. These Family Bibles are completely indexed by surname and there over 200 pages of transcriptions and scanned images, which they are adding to on a regular basis. One of the unique pages found on the site is genealogical prison records, where you can search for current prison/jail inmates or possibly locate a black sheep ancestor in older records. You can also browse past sheriffs of the US to see if any of your ancestors are included. To browse these and other search engines and free genealogy resources look in the genealogy search engines and contents menu, which is located on each page.

5. ANCESTRY.COM

www.ancestry.com

Family history sleuths have been flocking to Ancestry.com for years to view its subscription-based databases for online access to US census records (1790-1920) with its especially useful “every name index”. In addition, the collection contains many censuses for individual American states and Canadian provinces. Ancestry’s Immigration Collection was recently updated to include 100 million names on all readily available US passenger lists from 1820-1960, including Ellis Island, as well as records from more than 100 other US ports of arrival. Be sure to check out the other extensive resources here, such as: Military Records (including WWI Draft Registration Cards, Civil War Service Records, WWII Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946), Directories and Member Lists, Court, Land and Probate Records, Newspapers and Periodicals, Family and Local Histories, Old Postcards, Yearbooks, as well as other databases. In addition, there are some freebies available such as the Learning Center and Family History Circle and downloadable charts and forms.

6. ARCHIVES.GOV/GENEALOGY

www.archives.gov/genealogy

The National Archives and Records Administration’s site con-

tains a wealth of information for genealogists and family historians, including links for: Forms, tools and aids; tips on how to start your genealogy research and care for your family archives; essays and links to assist with using NARA’s records for research; an online guide to NARA publications; guides to records at NARA and much, much more! This site is a “must-stop” for any avid family history researcher!

7. CANADIAN GENEALOGY DIRECTORY

www.cangenealogy.com

CanGenealogy.com is a site designed to be a source of genealogical links with a difference. The links on this site are ranked with the most important ones at the top. There are links to big Canadian research websites such as Library and Archives Canada, www.collectionscanada.com, and inGeneas, www.ingeneas.com, as well as lesser-known, but useful, online resources. The site provides a digest so that you don’t have to click through thousands of links to get to what you want. Links are categorized Genealogy by Region; Genealogy by Category; Resources, etc., with subcategories underneath. On CanGenealogy, you won’t have to dig deep to find the ones that matter the most — they will be at the top of the page. The site states openly that “By choice, we don’t list every site of interest to family historians working in Canada. Our goal is to help you get to the key sites as quickly as possible. There are other sites that have thousands of genealogical links — and yes, we have links to those sites. If CanGenealogy doesn’t help you, with luck we will guide you to sites that do.” With its well-organized links, this site is crucial for those seeking their roots in the Great White North.

8. CENTER FOR RESEARCH LIBRARIES

www.crl.edu

CRL is a consortium of North American universities, colleges and independent research libraries. The consortium acquires and preserves traditional and digi-

tal resources for research and teaching and makes them available to member institutions through interlibrary loan and electronic delivery. CRL holds more than four million newspapers, journals, dissertations, archives, government publications and other traditional and digital resources for research and teaching. Searchable online is their "Special Collections Databases", which includes well-known research collections of college and university catalogs, primary and secondary textbooks and WWII war crimes tribunals, as well as lesser-known collections of railroad publications, courses of study and international central bank publications. Of special note are the "Foreign Newspapers" — more than 6,000 newspaper titles published outside the US and the "US Ethnic Newspapers" — more than 2,000 titles of periodicals and newspapers published by various ethnic groups in North America. The CRL's Reading Room is located in Chicago, Illinois and use of the room is free to students, faculty and scholars from CRL member institutions (see their website for a list). There is a daily request fee for individuals who are not faculty, students or staff at a member institution. CRL lends to other libraries, not individuals. Requests must come from the non-member library's interlibrary loan department and fees will apply.

9. DEAD FRED

www.deadfred.com

Dead Fred's Genealogy Photo Archive is a free, photo genealogy research website (or photobase) devoted to helping you visualize your heritage. Search for images by name, date, location, photographer and other criteria. You can also post your own photos to the archive. The site also has an extensive collection of mystery photos,

which are interesting to browse. Its huge, searchable database currently contains 13,589 surnames and 65,172 records. To date, the site boasts of 1,032 reunions of photographs with their rightful owners. Sign up for the free newsletter to learn about recent updates or developments to the site. For more information, read the article on DeadFred in the October/November 2006 issue of *Internet Genealogy*.



Since its inception, DeadFred.com has reunited more than 1,000 "lost" photos, like the one shown above right, with their rightful owners.



10. EBAY

www.ebay.com

Although not officially dubbed a genealogy or family history website, eBay should be on your list of "underused sources". Whether you are trying to track down a long-lost family Bible, a collection of old photographs or postcards, a yearbook from your ancestor's high school or perhaps a rare book or map, keep an eye on eBay. As of this writing, there were some 3,900 items found for genealogy listed in the "Everything Else", "Books" and "Computers & Networking" categories. Don't have time to routinely check if an item you desire has been listed on the site? Then, let eBay do the work for you. Once you sign up

for a eBay user ID (it's free), and type in a search term such as "genealogy", you will see the link

"Add to my Favorite Searches". From there you can type in key words and specify other search criteria, tell eBay to notify you when new items with your designated key words are listed and for how long you want the notifications to be sent.

Then, click "Save Search", sit back, relax and wait for eBay's e-mail!

11. FAMILY SEARCH

www.familysearch.org

This free site sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has been an "old faithful" to genealogists for years. Updates and changes to the site have greatly improved searches on its Family History Library catalog section.

In recent months, the site has been expanding its collection of birth, marriage, death, census and other records. It has also begun a massive project to digitize billions of records previously available only on microfilm, (e.g. civil, church and local records). It plans to make those available online beginning early next year. The site has some great freebies such as the Social Security Death Index, International Genealogy Index, Personal Ancestral File and more. Those new to genealogy should click on the "Library" tab, then "Education" and "Research Guidance". Here you can choose a place name (country, state or province) and be shown a list of subjects and records to help get

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you started. And whether you're a novice or more experienced researcher, check out the "Research Helps" tab which will give you a list of links, and sometimes downloadable PDF files of documents sorted by place, title, subject or document type. Document types include forms, letter-writing guides (for foreign research correspondence), maps, reference documents, research outlines, resource guides, step-by-step guides and word lists (for document translation).

12. FIND MY PAST

www.findmypast.com

FindMyPast is the new name for 1837online.com. Family historians can search for ancestors from England and Wales among the comprehensive collections of military records, census, migration, occupation directories and current electoral roll data, as well as the complete birth, marriage and death indexes. Registered users can purchase "units" to view search results, and there are six pricing plans to choose from. To see these, click the "pay per view website" link on the main page.

13. ELLIS ISLAND

www.ellisland.org

The Ellis Island Database (EIDB) contains the records of the more than 22 million immigrants that entered the US through Ellis Island and the Port of New York between 1892 and 1954. The site can be searched for free, but registration with a username and password is required. If you haven't searched this online database for some time, you may want to take another look. Not long ago, this site received a makeover and they've added a Genealogy Learning Center on the site with downloadable pedigree charts, family group sheets, passenger arrival logs and more. Another point of interest is the site's List of Famous Arrivals which allows you to see the arrival records of those who became successful in America. Did your ancestors arrive before 1892? They may have been among the more than 10 million immigrants who came

through Castle Garden, New York between 1830 and 1892 (the year Ellis Island opened). A searchable database is available free of charge at www.castlegarden.org. Search years are for 1820 to 1913. Results are displayed in tabular format, but take note, there is no link to manifest images on this site. To view the original manifest, you

(1977 to present, from more than 800 US newspapers); as well as the Social Security Death Index. The version of the SSDI on this site provides the actual day of the week the person was born on or died on, as well as "estimated age at death" (in years, months and days). The site's administrators believe they are the only SSDI site



The Ellis Island Database is a great online resource for genealogists looking to trace their ancestor's arrival through the Port of New York's most famous isle.



will have to either use Ancestry.com's subscription-based immigration collection or order a microfilm copy from the Family History Library (see #11).

14. GENEALOGY BANK

www.genealogybank.com

This new online resource contains data that is only available through Newsbank and its library subscription service, as well as some data not currently available elsewhere. The data is available via subscription only (\$19.95 US per month). Some of the databases include: Historical Newspapers (1690-1977); Historical Documents (1789-1930); America's Obituaries

to update weekly. (A review of GenealogyBank can be found in the December/January 2007 issue of *Internet Genealogy*). Because of its centralized collection of a wide variety of resources available through a single subscription service, GenealogyBank should catch on quickly with users and establish itself as a major player in the online genealogy field.

15. JEWISHGEN

www.jewishgen.org

JewishGen is the primary Internet source connecting researchers of Jewish genealogy worldwide. The site is incredibly helpful for novice roots seekers or those researching

outside the realm of Jewish genealogy. A couple of the site's most popular components are the ShtetlSeeker — for searching for towns in Central and Eastern Europe by name or location, and Jewish communities by various criteria — and ShtetlLinks for more than 200 communities. Other useful features include JewishGen Discussion Group, the JewishGen Family Finder (a database of 400,000 surnames and towns), the comprehensive directory of InfoFiles and Yizkor Book translations. JewishGen offers its resources at no charge but provides "value-added" services as a thank-you to those who contribute \$100 US or more to the JewishGen General Fund (see site for more details). Want to know more? Consult the December/January 2007 issue of *Internet Genealogy* for a complete article on JewishGen and its online resources and services.

16. GOOGLE AND GOOGLE BOOKS

www.google.com,
books.google.com.

Did you know you can use Google to search on surnames and places? If you've got an unusual last name, you'll be amazed at the results! Also, don't forget to try the international versions of Google — simply click on the "Language Tools" link on the first page of Google and then select from one of two drop-down menus to search pages written in a selection of languages or countries. While some sites do have a tab to click to get an English version of the page, note that translation in many instances will be necessary. You can also use Google Book Search using an ancestor's name, spouse's name, a location or profession, among other criteria. You simply input a search request and if a match is found, a link is added to the search results. Click the link to get a "snippet view" where you will find key information such as book title, author, publisher and snippets showing your search term in context within the book. You will only see the book in "full book

view" if the book is copyright free or the publisher has granted permission to Google to display the entire copy. For more information, consult the April/May 2006 issue of *Internet Genealogy*.

17. MYHERITAGE.COM

www.myheritage.com

The brainchild of Gilad Japhet, word about MyHeritage is spreading like wildfire. The site started attracting users last summer by enabling them to upload their own photos and compare them with images of various celebrities included in the database (see the December/January 2007 issue of *Internet Genealogy* for more information). Further development of the facial recognition feature, which is free to use, allows users to upload family photos and sort them into family trees through facial-recognition software that

the world including Ancestry.com and the Ellis Island Database, as well as lesser-known databases such as Ireland's Gravestone Index, US Civil War Soldiers' Records and DNA Databases, to name but a few.

There is also Family Tree Builder Software on the site, and the ability to set up a family website for free (enhanced sites cost from \$2.95 to \$9.95 US per month). Although the site indicates it is still in beta form, its streamlined search features are sure to appeal to genealogists at every skill level.

18. JOE BEINE'S ONLINE SEARCHABLE DEATH INDEXES & RECORDS

www.deathindexes.com

This easy-to-use website is a directory of online death indexes listed by state and county. Information about death records, death certifi-



Perhaps you've been told you look like Wyatt Earp, top left, or your Uncle Leo, top center, bears a striking resemblance to George Clooney, top right. MyHeritage.com's face recognition technology allows you to upload photos and see which famous figures you resemble the most.

clusters faces based on bone structure and unique eye characteristics. According to Japhet, consumers will, for an extra fee, be able to run a world-wide genealogy search covering all members of their family tree and receive updates when there are new search results for entries in their network. The site is also making it easier for family history aficionados to search for their ancestors on the Internet. Through something called "Megadex", users can type in an ancestor's name and then search simultaneously across more than 400 databases from around

cate indexes, death notices and registers, obituaries, probate indexes, and cemetery and burial records can be found here, as well as links to special pages on searching the Social Security Death Index online, and an Obituaries Research Guide. Joe Beine's categorized guide has information and links to all sorts of useful genealogy records, including census records, military records, naturalization records, passenger lists and state research guides, among other great tips on conducting your genealogy research and where to look.

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19. LINKPENDIUM

www.linkpendium.com

Use this free “definitive directory” to browse surnames worldwide. Results may include websites, obituaries, biographies and other material specific to a surname. You can also browse by US locality to find the areas where your ancestors settled. Use this site to find those results buried beneath the surface — those most relevant to your genealogy and family history that even Google might’ve missed!

20. OLIVETREE GENEALOGY

<http://olivetreegenealogy.com>

This site has been around since 1996, and currently has more than 1,900 pages of free genealogy resources “to help you find your brickwall ancestors”. Check out the Directory of Genealogy Links to offsite databases, the genealogy tutorials and help files: Virtual genealogy lessons on finding your ancestors in census records, land records, ships passenger lists, PERSI, and more. Just as helpful are the resource guides: How-to guides that help you find your family tree as you search for ships passenger lists, Huguenots, Native Americans, Canadian Immigration, Palatines and so on. Genealogy Resources include books, microfilm and little-known records on microfilm, fiche and CD.

21. STEVE MORSE’S ONE-STEP WEB PAGES

www.stevemorse.org

A collection of online forms used to search certain genealogical databases in “one-step”. The most notable is the “Searching the Ellis Island Database in One Step” section, which enables researchers to mine data from the Ellis Island Database. Users can choose “sounds like” search criteria for first and last name, as well as

town name and define a number of other more specific parameters. This is especially helpful for locating the often misspelled surnames and names of towns/villages. Steve’s recently added “gold form”, www.jewishgen.org/databases/EIDB/ellisgold.html, will add more power to searches for those hidden ancestors in the Ellis Island database. One key feature of the new form is the ability to search on traveling companions (previously only possible with Steve’s “Blue Form for Jewish pas-



sengers”). This is particularly helpful for those instances where you know that several family members immigrated together. At the bottom of the page, you can now specify which fields you’d like to see displayed on the results page and how you’d like to have the results sorted. The pages from this online search guru just seem to keep on generating genealogical heat! For more information, see page 12 of this issue of *Internet Genealogy*.

22. USGENWEB

www.usgenweb.com

The USGenWeb project site is one of the Internet’s genealogical research gems. The site is run by a group of volunteers working together to provide free genealogy websites for genealogical research in every county and every state of the US. Organization is by county and state, and the website provides you with links to all the state genealogy websites which, in turn, provide gateways to the counties. The USGenWeb Project also sponsors important special projects at the national level and

this website provides an entry point to all of those pages, as well. Once you access the main page of the site, simply click on a “State Link”, which will take you to that particular state’s official website. Clicking on the tabs at the top of the page will take you to additional online resources and links. The project marked its 10th anniversary in 2006.

23. WORLD VITAL RECORDS

www.worldvitalrecords.com

This new website, created by Paul Allen (one of the founders of Ancestry.com) contains free and subscription-based (\$49.95 US annually) content. WorldVital Records.com will offer users international record databases, references to top genealogical resources, a blog planet, podcasts, videocasts, “webinars”, expert advice, training and user-generated content. WVR’s stated aim is to become the number two player in the genealogy industry behind Myfamily.com. This site is another in the market promising the “one-stop” search for data and resources that genealogists crave. For more information, see the December/January 2007 issue of *Internet Genealogy*.

Do you feel your mouse getting warm? Is your monitor starting to burn up? These are but 23 of the countless websites that fuel the popularity of genealogy and with any luck, you will be able to find a nugget or two from them that will set your research on fire.

Be warned though — it could get hot!



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azines. She currently teaches online genealogy classes for the National Institute for Genealogical Studies and the newly formed GenClass.com.

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Old Historic Maps

RECENTLY THERE HAS been an explosion in the number of websites with a focus on maps! I have always enjoyed looking at a map of some place where my ancestors lived and wondering what the town or county or state or country looked like! With these new map sites, that is becoming easier than ever to do! Let's take a look at three of the newer ones:

HISTORIC MAP WORKS

www.historicmapworks.com

The site describes its offerings with "Welcome to the first GIS-linked, address-searchable map of 19th and early 20th century America. You can search our collection of over 100,000 antique property maps. Our collection of contemporaneous directories can be searched by family names, occupations, or addresses from the past 250 years."

This site is a work in progress and has two main features. You can currently research addresses for the following communities: Portland, Maine to New York City and Surrounding Vicinity (e.g. Long Island, Westchester); and Boston and Surrounding Vicinity. Do recognize that between going to press and when you read this, there may be other communities available, so keep checking!

Using the navigation on the left, you will see "Search Maps" & "Browse Maps" and "Search Directories" & "Browse Directories." If you click on these, you will see a map where you can click on the states for which there are directories or maps.

For example, for Maine Directories there is a collection covering Portland, Maine with directories for 1868, 1871, 1873, 1875, 1877, 1879 and more modern dates and for Maine Maps there is quite an assortment covering various time periods and locales. We also found that there are maps and atlases available for more states than is true for directories.

Additionally, the main page keeps you up-to-date on atlases

and maps that have been added to the website. Just in the last few months, they have almost tripled the number of maps available!

Note that as of January 2007, Historic Map Works became a subscription site with a yearly fee of \$29.95 US. Each annual subscription includes one free fine art reproduction map of the subscriber's choice.

GENEALOGY ATLAS — HISTORIC MAPS OF NORTH AMERICA

www.genealogyatlas.com

This site has "images of old American atlases during the years 1750 to 1900. These are scanned from the original copies so you can see the states and counties as our ancestors saw them over 100 ago. Some map years (not all) have cities, railroads, P.O. locations, township outlines and other features useful to the avid genealogist in North America."

Like the other map/atlas websites, this is a work in progress with new atlases being added. Some of the atlases currently available are:

- 1795 — *Carey's American Atlas*
- 1814 — *Carey's General Atlas*
- 1822 — *A Complete Historical, Chronological, And Geographical American Atlas*
- 1836 — *New Universal Atlas*
- 1845 — *Morse's North American Atlas*
- 1856 *Colton's Atlas of the World*

When you click on an atlas, you can either view various maps from the atlas, by clicking on the geographic area of interest (a particular state), or you also have an option to purchase any of the available maps.

MAPCO — MAP AND PLAN COLLECTION

<http://archivemaps.com/mapco/index.htm>

Whereas the other two map sites are currently US-focused, this website is more focused on what was

the British Empire and so has maps with a London, British Isles or Australian focus. It looks like the website has been created to eventually expand and offer maps for other areas. There are many London maps and fewer British Isles and Australian ones, though, the pages for the British Isles and Australia each includes a long list of "Upcoming Maps and Views."

For London, the oldest map is from 1560, three from the 1700s, and 13 from the 1800s. When you click on a map, such as the 1560 one, you then see an enlarged map with a grid overlaying it. Details about the map are also provided.

You can then click on any panel in the grid to see the enlarged version of that map, which also has a grid overlaying it. When you click on any panel, the enlarged version is shown lower on the web page, so, you need to scroll down to see the enlarged grid section.

By the time you click through to the final grid section, you are able to look at a very large, easy-to-read map segment. For the 1560 map, this means that you can easily see buildings, the city wall and other features, without having to do anything!

So, if you want to learn more about where your ancestors lived, do check out these websites. And, a few classic map websites that we visit often, and recommend, are Genmaps, <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~genmaps/> (for England, Scotland and Wales), the Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection, www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/ (worldwide); David Rumsey Map Collection, www.davidrumsey.com/ (worldwide); The Library of Congress American Memory Collection, <http://memory.loc.gov/amem/browse/ListSome.php?category=Maps> (US) and many more fine map collections.



Finding and Using Online Maps

JANICE NICKERSON MAPS OUT A STRATEGY FOR MAKING THE MOST OF THIS EVER EXPANDING AND QUITE ESSENTIAL GENEALOGICAL RESOURCE



MAPS ARE ESSENTIAL TOOLS for genealogists. They help us to locate our ancestors in real space, track their movements and understand how the physical world around them affected their lives. Many different kinds of maps can be helpful, ranging in scale and thematic focus. Here are just a few types of maps that I've found helpful in my own research.

WORLD/REGION POLITICAL MAPS

World or regional maps show the big picture. These maps allow you to quickly locate a country in the world and visualize the distance between your ancestor's homeland and his New World home. It helps to have a series of these covering different time periods relevant to your research, as country boundaries can change dramatically over time.

COUNTRY MAPS

These are mostly big picture maps, but they show a little more detail than world maps, usually including provincial or state boundaries and major cities. These can help you focus your research on the relevant jurisdictions where you're likely to find records, and also to be aware of the relative location of

major towns and cities compared to your ancestor's homes. These are the places to which he may have had to travel when dealing with government authorities.

PROVINCIAL/STATE MAPS

Even more helpful in locating major towns and cities are the next level of maps, usually covering an American state, Canadian province or similar intermediate jurisdiction. Maps at this level usually show most commercial and government centers.

COUNTY MAPS

Probably the most frequently consulted maps are for the county level. Here you can see all the small jurisdictions (townships, towns, parishes) and their relations to each other. It is at this level that you'll be able to identify possible locations for local newspapers to check for your ancestor's obituaries, business advertisements and locally relevant news. In many cases, these maps will also show major landmarks such as parks, cemeteries and churches.

TOWNSHIP/PARISH MAPS

Even smaller maps can often be found. They focus tightly on the

township or parish and thus show every little village and hamlet, the location of post offices, churches, cemeteries, mills and other important local landmarks. Some versions of these, called plat maps or cadastral maps, show the boundaries of each individual property, with the names of the property owners written in (or numbers keyed to a list of owners).

VILLAGE MAPS

Village maps show individual streets, houses and buildings. Old versions of these are a nice way to get a feel for the kinds of services or businesses that would have been locally available to your ancestors, such as churches, taverns, mills, post offices and shops.

HOUSE PLANS

At the smallest level, there are house and building plans. While not usually referred to as "maps", they serve the same purpose — to visually show the layout of a space. In this case, you get to see how many rooms the house had, and how they were divided, where the doors, windows and chimneys were located, and sometimes details about the existence of basements, cellars, attics and porches.

Old Maps: Finding and Using Online Maps

ROAD AND STREET MAPS; RIVER AND CANAL MAPS

These are helpful in imagining how your ancestors got from here to there. In earlier periods, the rivers and canals will be more important, as these were used before roads and railroads were built in the area. In early exploration days, or in the case of fur trading ancestors, the rivers were their most important transportation route, and thus, maps of the period will feature rivers

prominently. Where river travel was impractical, or roads were superior, a road map will highlight important routes travelled by your ancestors.

MIGRATION ROUTE MAPS

Migration route maps are created especially for historical study, from information gathered from historical sources describing the common routes our ancestors used to travel from one place to the next. These can be very helpful, especially if your ancestors' movements were part of a larger migration pattern.

RAILROAD MAPS

Railroad maps show the locations of railroads (often color-coded by railroad company) and railroad stations at a particular point in time. They can be very helpful in plotting an ancestor's migration route across the country. If you can find a series of railroad maps for different time periods, you can track the development and spread of the railroad, and thus get a better idea of how and why people moved when and where they did. These maps can be especially helpful if you have ancestors who worked on the railroads.

TITHE MAPS

Tithe maps were produced in the 1840s in England and Wales to help determine how much money each landowner would have to pay each year to the tithe owners (usually clergy of the Church of England). As such, they are very detailed (between 12 and 25 inches to the mile). Together with the Tithe Apportionships (list of land owners with their acreage, description of the land and state of cultivation), these

records are invaluable for people who have mid 19th-century rural ancestors in England and Wales.

RELIGIOUS DIOCESE/PARISH MAPS

These maps show the boundaries of parishes and dioceses which are useful in determining which church our ancestors may have attended and which religious authority to consult to find the relevant records.

CENSUS DISTRICT MAPS

The census bureau frequently produces maps showing the boundaries of enumeration districts. For years where these haven't been supplied by the government, other helpful people have filled in the gaps. These maps can be very helpful in finding your ancestors in the census records. As the enumeration districts frequently change from one census to the next, it may be necessary to have a series of these. By comparing your ancestor's location in each census with the enumeration district maps, you can determine whether it was the household that moved, or just the boundary lines!

HISTORICAL ETHNIC DISTRIBUTION MAPS

Maps showing the distribution of people in different ethnic groups, clans or aboriginal tribes can be helpful for a variety of reasons. First, if our ancestors were immigrants, we can examine maps for their new home county to see if they chose to live in a region populated mostly by people from the same ethnic background, or a more mixed region, or a region where they would have stood out as a minority. Second, if our ancestors were aboriginal, we can use maps showing the locations of different tribes or nations during the early contact period to envision our ancestors' home territory, and learn more about their history. Finally, if we have non-aboriginal ancestors, we may want to learn more about our ancestors' people's ancient history in their homelands, and how they moved about as a group.

INITIAL SURVEY MAPS

In North America, when a region was first being prepared for settlement, a survey would be commissioned by the government in order to set out the boundaries of the town/township/section, determine the location of planned roads, allocate land for parks or for the use of local government or clergy, and



A road map will highlight important routes taken by your ancestors as they traveled across North America.

divide up the remaining land for distribution to settlers. These maps also frequently show waterways and other natural features that might affect settlement patterns and sometimes show the names of the first few owners (and maybe even of squatters who had occupied the land prior to the survey).

LAND OWNERSHIP MAPS

Several types of land ownership maps may be available for North American towns, townships, or sections, including maps showing the first owners or "patentees" whose rights were granted by the government, and plat maps showing current owners at the time the map was prepared (many of these were done in the late 1800s throughout Canada and the United States).

LOT/PROPERTY MAPS

It is also possible, sometimes, to find maps or plans of individual properties. These are usually filed with land registry records and show the outlines of the property (and often the names of adjacent property holders), the locations of any buildings or fences, and often topographic details such as the elevation, soil type, vegetation and streams or ponds. When available, these are a wonderful help in visualizing your ancestor's daily surroundings.

ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPS

This is a special series of official maps of England and Wales. The first series were produced starting in 1801, and finishing in the late 1820s, at a scale of one inch to one mile. The second series, produced from 1841 to 1895 were done at a scale of six inches to one mile. These are so incredibly detailed that you can see each house and lane, and get a marvelous image of the homes and villages of your British ancestors.

FIRE INSURANCE MAPS

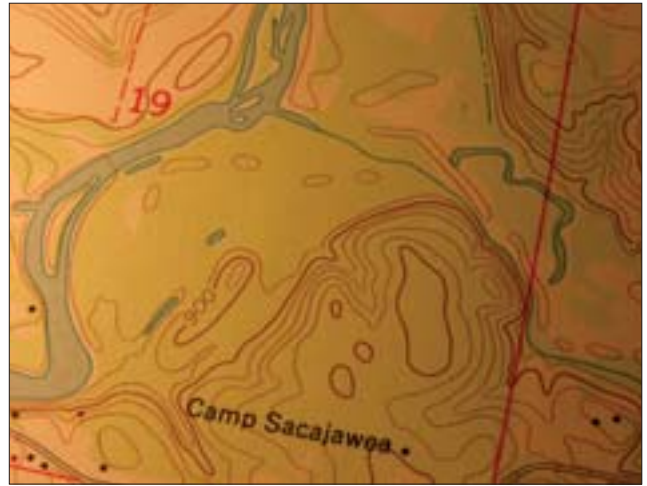
Fire insurance maps were created to help insurance companies assign premium rates for houses and buildings in urban areas across North America, starting in the 1850s, and continuing to the present day. These maps are large scale, showing individual buildings with information about their size and structure, the materials used in their construction, locations of doors, windows and elevators, and how the building was powered or heated. In the United States, there were many producers of

these maps in the 19th century, but by the early 20th century the Sanborn Company clearly dominated the field. In Canada, the biggest company in the 19th and early 20th century, was the Charles E. Goad Company.

INTERACTIVE ONLINE MAPS AND MAPPING SOFTWARE

Finally, there are digital maps available online and with software that allows

you to customize your maps so you can focus in on particular locations of interest, find modern addresses, calculate distances and the like. There are even software companies that sell programs to help you take metes and bounds property descriptions and turn them into maps of your ancestor's properties. (See below for companies' websites.)



Property maps often include topographical details such as the elevation, soil type, vegetation and streams or ponds.

WEBSITES

So where can you find these wonderful tools for genealogical research? Fortunately, they are not in short supply, although you may have to dig a little to find the precise map you need. Here are a few of my favorite websites for finding maps.

Map History Site

www.maphistory.info

Filled with information about maps and mapping, there are essays and links to sites for virtually anything related to maps, from where to buy them, to blogs about map collecting, to educational opportunities in cartography, to famous fake maps, to sites with actual images of maps. In fact, this site probably contains the most comprehensive list of links to online images of maps anywhere. You can search by topic or by geographic location, and each link has a brief description of what you'll find, indicating the level of resolution, whether or not the map is zoomable, what kind of viewing software is necessary, and any special features offered by the site. I

Old Maps: Finding and Using Online Maps

found myself going off on extreme tangents following links from this site!

Ancestry.com

www.ancestry.com

Ancestry.com has a large collection of maps including geo-political, cadastral and transportation maps. Personally, I found it a bit difficult to find what I wanted, but with a little patience, you'll probably find a lot of what you need here.

Perry-Casteñada Library Map Collection

www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/

The Perry-Casteñada Library at the University of Texas has a huge collection of more than 10,000 digitized

19th-century and early 20th-century atlases for specific locations (mostly American counties); lots of gazetteers to help you find the locations of place names; links for companies that sell old maps; and lots of links to sites with just a few unique maps that are especially helpful for genealogists, such as an 1849 Poor Law Union map of Ireland; Saskatchewan Wheat Pool maps from 1924 to 1984; and a Scottish clan map.

Library of Congress American Memory Project's Map Collection

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/gmdhome.html>

For American research, you'll definitely want to explore the Library of Congress' American Memory Project Map Collection. This gigantic collection includes a vast quantity of maps for every conceivable location and subject. Each map is dynamic — you can zoom in and out and change the size shown on the screen. The collection is divided into seven themes: General Maps; Cities and Towns; Conservation and Environment; Discovery and Exploration; Cultural Landscapes; Military battles and Campaigns; and Transportation and Communication. General Maps includes large-scale political maps showing regions and countries, although there are some for individual states in the US. They range in date, with some very recent and others quite old. Cities and Towns includes panoramic maps, close-ups of streets and city-wide plans from around the world. Cultural Landscapes includes American land ownership maps for individual counties. Transportation and Communication includes a collection of railroad maps 1828-1900, canal and river systems, bicycling routes, roads, telegraph routes, radio coverage and telephone systems. You can search each section separately, or the entire collection by keyword or location. You never know what you might find. I found a map showing the locations of schools with African-American teachers in North Carolina in the 1870s!



"Europe at the Present Time" From The Historical Atlas by William R. Shepherd, 1911, as featured on the Perry-Casteñada Library Map Collection website.

online maps, covering every part of the globe, and a wide range of scales and themes, including a large number of historical maps. One fascinating map I found in this collection showed England and Wales in 1832 with the major products of each region written in (iron, tin, copper, slate, barley, wheat, wool, hops, fruit, ships, coal, pottery, etc.).

Cyndi's List

www.cyndislist.com/maps.htm

You'll also want to try Cyndi's List for other suggested links to map sites. Her section on maps, gazetteers and geographical information includes a large set of links for sites to locate fire insurance maps; a wide range of links to

Beverly Whitaker's American Rivers and Waterways/Migration Routes

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~gentutor/rivers.html>

A great place to start learning about American river routes is Beverly Whitaker's American Rivers and Waterways site, with links to location-

specific sites about canals, rivers and lakes across the country. Whitaker has also created a series of migration route fact sheets with maps showing the principle routes.

The Atlas of Canada

<http://atlas.nrcan.gc.ca/site/english/maps/historical>

For Canadian research, one of the best sites is the Atlas of Canada where you'll find maps showing the distribution of First Nations peoples in Canada prior to contact and at various points in history, exploration and discovery maps, and maps showing the changing boundaries of provinces and territories over time.

ArchiviaNet, Library and Archives Canada's Collection of Maps

www.collectionscanada.ca/02/020154_e.html

The largest collection of Canadian maps is likely found at Library and Archives Canada. Accessible through the ArchiviaNet search tool, there are more than 4,000 map images online, and links to more than 40,000 descriptions of maps in their collection. The online images include large- and small-scale maps and plans, including such items as an 1848 plan of the town of Stratford (zoomable) showing the streets and houses, churches and mills; an 1875 Railway and Postal map of Quebec showing railway and telegraph stations, post roads, post offices, savings banks, money order offices and the shortest distances between towns via the mail routes; and an 1895 conflagration map of Toronto showing the buildings affected by the great fire, where it started and the extent of damage to each building.

Canadian County Atlas Digital Project

<http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/CountyAtlas/>

Another favorite Canadian site is the Canadian County Atlas Digital Project. This site provides digital images of the 40 historic county atlases originally printed in the late 1870s and early 1880s across Canada (mostly for Ontario counties). Each atlas includes county maps, township maps (on which individual land owner's names appear), and directories of residents. You can view each map manually, or search for a name in the database of owners and directory listings. It's a great way to quickly find a late 19th-century Ontario ancestor's property location.

Old-Maps.Co.UK

www.old-maps.co.uk

If you're researching ancestors in the UK, you'll want to try this site. Here you'll find digital scans (zoomable) of late 19th-century Ordnance Survey maps for all of England and Wales.

These maps are so detailed that you should be able to find even the most obscure English/Welsh place names!

The Map Room

www.themaproom.org

For a wider range of European maps, you may want to try The Map Room. This site offers complete sets of maps from old atlases (1790 to 1914) for the United Kingdom and Europe. These maps are generally large scale. The 1895 atlas includes a railway map of England and Wales.

MAPPING SOFTWARE

If you want to create your own maps, to show the places your ancestors lived, outline your ancestor's property, or track their movements, you can purchase software programs to help you. A program called AniMap Plus, <http://goldbug.com/store/page1.html>, will help you locate obscure place names in the United States and plot them on outline maps for any year you choose (it automatically adjusts the boundaries for the period) using a range of colors and shapes for your own customized markers. DeedMapper, www.directlinesoftware.com, helps you take metes and bounds land descriptions for old deeds and plots them on a map so you can see the outlines of your ancestor's properties. GenMap UK, www.archersoftware.co.uk, takes your genealogy information from a GEDCOM file and plots it on maps of the British Isles, so you can see where all your known UK ancestors lived over time.

Using Maps in Genealogy

<http://erg.usgs.gov/isb/pubs/factsheets/fs09902.html>

Finally, if you want to explore this topic further, this very nice "fact sheet" provided by the US Geological Survey offers more tips and information about the use of maps for genealogical research.



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Discovering Your UK Ancestors' Neighborhood

THERE IS MORE TO researching our ancestors than finding the names and dates we display on a family tree. We want to know them as real people, we want to know about their lives, their jobs and their neighborhood.

If you have ancestors who lived in Britain, online historical map resources can help with visualizing their neighborhood in a way modern maps don't, and may help your research further.

A good start can be found at www.old-maps.co.uk where you will find free access to digital images of mid 19th-century UK maps produced by Landmark Information services and Ordnance Survey, the national mapping agency of Great Britain.

Once you have gained an address for an ancestor from a census record or registration certificate, for example, you can search old-maps by place name, address or coordinate, or you can use the gazetteer search option which lists some 50,000 modern day cities, towns, villages and boroughs.

SEARCH OPTIONS

Searches are not case sensitive and wildcards can be used. Results are displayed with the administrative county name of the place and if you don't know the county, it can be found using the gazetteer search.

Counties are given as they were in the mid-1800s, but bear in mind that county boundaries do change, so you may have to consider more than one county. Clicking on a search result will take you to a historical map displaying the date and ordnance survey grid coordinate at the top.

Searching by address gives modern-day results, which can be a little confusing if the address was not there in the 1800s or has since disappeared. On the other hand, a modern-day address will tell you if your ancestor's house is still a residence or is now a Chinese restaurant or business outlet. Clicking on one of the address results will take you to an historical map centered on the address.

As we don't usually have Ordnance Survey grid coordinates handy, this search option is best used when you already know the coordinate after viewing one of the historical maps, and want to find it again quickly.

VIEWING THE MAPS

At busy times there may be a delay in image loading and the maps are not as visually sharp as you would hope, but once you have your historical map onscreen, you can zoom in or out and direction arrows allow you to move around the area. If you don't understand ordnance survey map symbols and markings, there is a "help" option on the top toolbar which will aid with interpretation.

With each image, you can click on a



English couples too young to wed in England often went across the border to marry in the Scottish village of Gretna Green. The above map from www.old-maps.co.uk shows great detail of this British place of interest.

At a scale of 1:10,560 scale there is a lot of detail on these historical maps and although most of the UK is available, the maps for a few areas were either damaged or lost.

If your ancestor lived in a small town or village, these maps are especially useful as farms and cottages are often named and local workplaces, such as collieries and coal pits, may be shown. Mills may also be identified along with a note of what they produced, for example, paper or cotton.

Visualizing the local landscape does not take a great deal of imagination either, as all the usual ponds, lakes, reservoirs, wells, woodland, footpaths and even wooden bridges are shown.

“view modern map” or “aerial view” button which allows you to see how the area looks today. These options are best clicked on when the historical image is not zoomed to the maximum, otherwise the resulting modern image will be blurred.

There are no facilities to zoom or navigate on these modern images, so they don't have the flexibility of Multimap, but they do allow more direct comparisons.

To see how old-maps.co.uk works in practice, let's take the example of naturalist Charles Darwin. In the 1861 census, he was living at Down House, Down, Kent with his wife Emma, their seven children and a host of visitors and servants. He was in London for the 1871 census and in Downe House for the 1881 census.

Trying both spellings, there were no Place Name matches for “Down” but two for “Downe” — Downe, Kent and Downe, Surrey. Alternatively, the gazetteer search option to find Kent, then Downe, would have been slightly quicker.

The resultant historical map is an 1871 map of the village of Downe with the grid reference of 543026,161500.

Enlarging the image and using the direction arrows, we find Downe Hall in the village and a short distance outside the village, Downe Lodge, Downe House and Downe Court. We can see from the map that these were all large houses.

There is a footpath between Downe House and Downe Court so perhaps we can assume there were frequent visitations between the houses? Another search of the 1861 census reveals these neighbors to be farming brothers.

Returning to the village of Downe, a Particular Baptist chapel is marked along with another church. Writing underneath is difficult to read but is perhaps the name of the church.

Charles Darwin may have upset the church with his revolutionary work on evolution, but it is quite probable one of these churches would have parish records relating to the Darwin family's baptisms, marriages and burials.

Assuming this is the case, it would be significant that one of the churches was a non-conformist chapel as the routes to finding these records would be different to tracking Church of England records.

If we wanted to find more on these

churches, we could click on “view modern map” and ordnance survey symbols would show the Baptist chapel without a spire and the other church with a spire.

Using Google to search for “Downe churches” results in a web page for Cudham and Downe combined churches. Following various links takes us to an image of St Mary the Virgin, Downe and we find it is a Church of England church with a spire. So now we know the name and denomination of the church.

Following further links, we find today's church has produced a calendar of local scenes and houses, which can be purchased online. A real find if your ancestor did indeed come from Downe and lived in one of those big houses.

Alternatively, GENUKI, www.genuki.org.uk, would have resulted in similar information on the church, but not the calendar. The church today can be found on Multimap, www.multimap.com, which also shows Darwin's home as Down House, Darwin Museum.

OTHER SOURCES FOR UK MAPS

Historical Maps:

MAPCO (Map And Plan Collection Online), at <http://archivemaps.com/mapco/index.htm>, has free access to high quality scans of 16th- to 19th-century maps and plans of London and British Isles country maps, including Wallis' 1801 Plan of the Cities of London and Westminster and an 1877 London map showing parish boundaries, ecclesiastical districts and poor law divisions.

There are also some 19th-century maps and engravings of Australia, for example, the District of Adelaide, South Australia as divided into county sections in 1839 and showing the names of the original landowners.

OTHER MODERN MAPS OF THE UK

- www.multimap.co.uk
- www.streetmap.co.uk
- www.magic.gov.uk



The above map of Downe, Kent has a circle around the Particular Baptist chapel.



The circle above shows the footpath between Downe House and Downe Court.



A modern-day Multimap map showing that Downe House is now the Darwin Museum.

Library and Archives Canada

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES Canada (LAC) is Canada's national heritage institution; its website, www.collections.canada.ca, is a well-spring of information about Canadian roots.

Where to begin? For genealogists, the simplest place to start is the Canadian Genealogy Centre portal at www.collections.canada.ca/genealogy. Here you'll find: An excellent "how to" section to get you started with the basics of genealogical research, oriented to Canadian research in particular; a topically arranged section on sources providing detailed information about where to find the records, what they contain, and how to use them; a section providing information about sources unique to each province and territory; a links section taking you to other government sites, archives, libraries, universities, private reference sites and genealogical societies; and then there's the database section...

DATABASES

The database section contains a wide range of indexed, transcribed and digitized records. Here is a brief description of the most valuable databases.

Note: Remember that each online database has an "online help" section that provides a great deal of information about the background of the records involved, the structure and content of the database, tips for searching and how to find original records. Also, LAC is in the process of converting its databases from the old "ArchiviaNet" search format to a new "Archives Search" format. For now, some databases can be searched either way. The



The library of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

new format seems to be much more user-friendly.

Avitus

Avitus is a directory of more than 3,000 genealogical resources held by libraries, archives and other organizations country-wide. It includes listings for original records, as well as indexes, transcripts and guidebooks. Subjects range from "shipwrecks" (six items) to "deaths" (449 items). Coverage is far from comprehensive; this is not a database of all record sources in Canada. It only includes items submitted by repositories for inclusion. Thus, some areas are much more thoroughly covered than others. A great many of the links are to genealogical societies, libraries and other institutions.

Canadian Directories: Who was Where

Don't know where in Canada your ancestor lived? This ongoing project to digitize 19th- and 20th-century Canadian national, provincial/territorial, county and city directories may help. The first stage has focused on 19th-century directories, with comprehensive coverage of Ottawa (1861 to 1901) and

Halifax (1869 to 1901). You can search by name and then view the full page image of any entry that looks promising.

Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online

Famous, infamous or otherwise notable Canadians who died between the years 1000 and 1930 are chronicled in the Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online. The biographies are fully searchable by keyword

and most volumes are also accessible by profession and geographic region. Eventually the database will be enhanced by expanding the search capabilities, adding portraits from the LAC collections where possible and creating hyperlinks between related biographies.

Census Microfilm Reels from 1666 to 1901

This is an online version of the printed catalog to census films. It is searchable by township, town, village or county and allows you to quickly determine which microfilm contains the census returns for a particular location.

Census of 1851 (Canada East, Canada West, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia)

All the surviving (most city returns were destroyed, and many townships are missing) returns for the Canadian census of 1851 (actually taken in early 1852) have been digitized and the images are available in PDF format online. Details for each member of the household include name, sex, age, occupation, religion and birthplace. There is no name index, but there is a list of district and subdistrict names to

help you identify the relevant location. (Note: Ancestry.ca has indexed these records, so you can start there if you have a subscription.)

Census of Ontario, 1871

This is an index to the heads of households, strays (people whose surnames were different from that of the head of the household in which they were living) and people who died during the previous twelve months (census date: 2 April 1871) in Ontario. The index includes: Names, ages, birthplaces, sex, religion, place of origin, occupation for each head of household/stray and the reference details you can use to locate the relevant page in the microfilmed census to see the entire household.

Census of Canada, 1901

Digitized images of the entire 1901 census of Canada are available. Information includes the name, sex, relationship to head of the household, exact date of birth, occupation, wages earned, religion, birthplace, year of immigration and year of naturalization of each member of the household. As with the 1851 census, there is no name index. It is searchable only by location (there is a list of districts and subdistricts provided). Images are provided in MrSid format, which allows you to zoom in and out without losing any image quality. (Note: Name indexes are available through www.automatedgenealogy.com and Ancestry.ca.)

Census of the Northwest Provinces, 1906

As above, this database provides images of the actual pages of the 1906 census of the Northwest Provinces (Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta). Information includes the name, age, sex, relationship to head of the household, birthplace and year of immigration of each member of the household (plus the post office address of each household). There is no name index, but there is a list of census districts and maps showing

the boundaries of each district. There is also a detailed explanation of the land description system, to help you locate your ancestor's place of residence. Images are provided in MrSid format. (Note: Name indexes are available through www.automatedgenealogy.com and Ancestry.ca.)

Census of Canada, 1911

As above, these are images of the actual pages of the 1911 census of Canada. Information in this census includes the name, sex, relationship to head of the household, month and year of birth, occupation, wages earned, religion, birthplace, year of immigration and year of naturalization, of each member of the household (the exact address of each household is also provided). There is no name index, so you have to search by location. Images are provided in both MrSid and PDF formats.



The Dictionary of National Biography entry for John Howard, an architect, surveyor, civil engineer and artist is more than 1,000 words long and one of the shorter entries in the series that covers almost 8,000 prominent Canadians.

(Note: Name indexes are available through www.automatedgenealogy.com and Ancestry.ca.)

Upper and Lower Canada Marriage Bonds

It can be difficult to locate records for Protestants in Upper and Lower Canada (now Ontario and Quebec) in the early years, but if your ancestors were among the minority who wanted to marry

without having banns (intentions to marry) read out in a church, you're in luck. The groom could apply for a marriage license by entering into a bond with one or two other people who would guarantee that there was no legal impediment to the marriage. The licenses were not kept, but the bonds were. This database includes scanned images of 2,960 marriage bonds issued in Lower Canada between 1779 and 1858, and 7,899 marriage bonds issued between 1803 to 1865 in Upper Canada. The bonds include: Names of the future husband and wife, their places of residence, names of the sureties, date and place where the bond was issued, and, if the future wife was under age 21, her father's name.

Divorce in Canada, 1841-1968

Did your Canadian ancestors get a divorce before 1968? If so, you'll find them listed in this database of published divorce acts from 1840 to 1968 (to get a divorce, Parliament had to pass a private act which was published in the official government organs). Each entry includes: Names of the petitioner and spouse; their place(s) of residence; the date and place of marriage; and the grounds for divorce. If you find a relevant entry, you can order a copy of the act using the reference number provided. Unfortunately, while LAC does hold the original divorce case files, these are closed to the public.

Passenger Lists 1865-1922

A vast collection of digitized passenger lists has recently been added. There is no name index, so you have to search by ship's name, date (of departure or arrival) or port (of departure or arrival), but it is, nonetheless, an incredibly valuable resource. Information provided on ship's passenger lists include details about the ship and the voyage, as well as, the names, ages, occupations and nationality of all passengers. In some cases, former addresses and the address of rela-

Library and Archives Canada

tives in Canada (their first destination) are also provided.

Immigration Records 1925-35

This database includes the names of immigrants to Canada arriving on ships between 1925 and 1935 as well as border entries from the US whose surnames start with the letter C. Information includes: Name, age, sex, nationality, date of arrival, port of arrival, ship, reference, volume, page and microfilm reel on which the original passenger list appears.

Canadian Naturalization 1915-32

The Canadian Naturalization database contains references to about 200,000 people who applied for and received status as naturalized Canadians from 1915 to 1932. The names are taken from official government publications. Most entries include the person's name, country of origin, place of residence in Canada and occupation. Names of wives and children were often included. Those naturalized between 1915 and 1920 have been entered individually by name. Those naturalized between 1921 and 1932 are included in annual alphabetized lists, so you will need to check each year's list one by one. If you find a relevant entry, you can then use the certificate number provided to order copies of the actual naturalization records from Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

Home Children Database, 1869-1939

Between 1869 and the early 1930s, more than 100,000 children were sent to Canada from Britain by philanthropic organizations. The indexing of names of Home Children found in passenger lists is an ongoing project of the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa. To date, the index is nearly complete for the years 1865 to 1919. For each child, you can learn their name, age, sex, ship, port and date of departure, port and date of arrival, name of the organization or home that sent the child or with whom the child

traveled, destination and microfilm reel for the original record.

Port of New Westminster — Register of Chinese Immigration (1887-1908)

The Chinese Immigration Act of 1885 required immigration officers to maintain a general register of all Chinese immigrants entering Canada. The Port of New Westminster Register of Chinese Immigration (1887-1908) contains the names of 463 Chinese immigrants arriving in the years 1887 to 1898, 1907 and 1908. This is the only port register known to have



The Library and Archives Canada website.

survived. The registers contain: Name; date of registration; the type of certificate issued (whether or not a head tax was paid); fees paid; sex; age; place of birth; title, rank, profession or occupation; last residence; port or place of arrival in Canada; name of vessel, railway or other conveyance; date of arrival; physical marks or peculiarities; and remarks.

Likacheff-Ragosine-Mathers Collection (LI-RA-MA)

This valuable collection contains a wide array of documents concerning immigrants arriving in Canada from the Russian empire in the years 1898 to 1922, including more than 11,000 passport applications and questionnaires on Jewish, Ukrainian and Finnish immigrants. Only half of the database is currently online, but the rest should soon be available.

Upper Canada and Canada West Naturalization Registers, 1828-50

If you have a male ancestor who wasn't born in the British Commonwealth and who resided in Upper Canada or Canada West (precursors to Ontario) after 1828, you will want to check this database to see if he applied for naturalization. The database contains the names of 2,967 persons naturalized between 1828 and 1850, and digitized images of the original registers. Registers for 1828 to 1841 provide the person's name, residence, occupation, signature and date of registry; registers for 1841 to 1850 also provide the person's place of residence on 10 February 1841, the date of the expiration of the seven years residence (a requirement for naturalization), and whether he was or was not less than 16 years of age at the date named in the next preceding column and, if he was, then the date at which he attained that age.

Immigrants at Grosse-Île

This database includes information on 33,026 immigrants whose names appear in surviving records of the Grosse-Île Quarantine Station (Port of Quebec) between 1832 and 1937. They include: Tenants evicted in 1847 from County Roscommon, Ireland; babies born at sea; people who died on ships at sea, on the St. Lawrence River or on quarantined ships at Grosse-Île; patients treated in local hospitals; and people baptized, married and buried at Grosse-Île.

Montreal Emigrant Society Passage Book (1832)

The Montreal Emigrant Society was established in 1831 to help newly arrived immigrants settle in their new country. Assistance included both relief (rations and shelter in temporary sheds) and transportation costs to get to their ultimate destination elsewhere in Upper or Lower Canada. The society was in operation at least from 1831 to 1835, but the only record that survives is the passage book register for 1832, which includes

the names of 8,763 immigrants. Digitized images of this register are accessible through this database. The register includes: Name; age group; place of origin, destination, occupation or trade, rations provided (pork, biscuits, oatmeal) and remarks.

Western Land Grants (1870-1930)

If your ancestor settled in Western Canada, have a look at this database of land grant patents issued in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the railway belt of British Columbia between approximately 1870 and 1930. Patents record the name of the grantee, the description of the land and the date the land was granted by the Crown. If you find an ancestor in the patent database, you may then want to search for a homestead application or file, which offer much more detailed information, through the provincial archives.

Métis Scrip Records

Following the Riel and Northwest Rebellions, the Canadian government attempted to settle its ongoing disputes with the mixed blood residents of Manitoba and the former North-West Territories (now Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories) by granting land to those who could prove mixed ancestry. To qualify, the applicant had to provide affidavits and fill out an application including their name, date and place of birth, parents' names and their background and the name(s) of spouse and children. These records cover the period 1870 to 1920 and include approximately 10,000 individuals. Images of the majority of the applications and affidavits are available online.

Soldiers of the South African War (1899-1902)

Three sets of records relating to the South African War are brought together in this database: Just under 6,000 service files (sadly, not all the files of the 7,368 Canadians and 12 Nursing Sisters survived), medal registers naming 4,474

Canadian recipients and applications for land grants based on service. Images of the service files and medal registers are included. The service files usually include: Attestation paper, with a physical description of the recruit; service history; medical report; discharge certificate; and notation on medals awarded. The medal register includes the names of the recipients, and indicates the clasp enti-

attestation papers and enlistment forms (most of which have been digitized and can be viewed online; the rest will be added over time). The attestation papers include the recruit's name and address, next-of-kin, date and place of birth, occupation, previous military service and distinguishing physical characteristics. Men drafted into the CEF completed a simpler form which included their name, date of recruitment and compliance with requirements for registration. If you find a relative's attestation papers, you can then apply for his complete service file, which can include up to 50 pages of fascinating information.

War Diaries of the First World War

This database contains the digitized War Diaries of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) units. These were official logs chronicling the operations and activities of each unit. Each diary follows a standard format with columns for place, date, hour, summary of events and information and remarks. The summary could range from a point-form list of basic facts to a long narrative account, depending on the abilities and sensibilities of the officer responsible for maintaining it. You can search by unit name or date. If you don't know the exact name of the relevant unit, there is a keyword list that names all the military units of the CEF.

Courts Martial of the First World War

Some of our ancestors were unsuited to military life and ran afoul of the law while serving. Fortunately (depending on your perspective, of course), records of courts martial were well kept. These records document a wide range of offenses including purely military crimes, such as desertion, assisting the enemy or lying about one's age, as well as crimes common to civilians such as fraud, theft or perjury. Each record contains: Name, regimental number, rank, unit, date of offense, remarks



This WWI diary extract, one of thousands available from the Library and Archives Collection website, reads: "Number 9 anti-aircraft will remain attached to 2nd Canadian Division and number 20 anti-aircraft section will be attached to 1st Canadian Division from October 6th addressed 1st and 2nd Canadian Divisions repeated BGRA and A and Q." This extract is from October 1915 Appendix 4, p. 13. File Title: War diaries - 1st Canadian Division - General Staff (1915/10/01-1915/10/31).

lements and, sometimes, the place of residence of the soldiers and nurses after the war's end.

Soldiers of the First World War (1914-18)

More than 600,000 Canadians served in the Canadian Expeditionary Force during WWI, 424,589 of whom were stationed in Europe. This database provides access to the 620,000 surviving

Library and Archives Canada

and archival reference number (which you can use to order the entire file).

Post Offices and Postmasters

If you have Canadian postmasters in your family tree, this database is for you. Here you'll find lists of all the postmasters with their dates of appointment and retirement from every post office in Canada from the 1850s to the present. You can search by postmaster's name, location or post office name.

Ward Chipman, Muster Master's Office (1777-85)

Ward Chipman's papers contain muster rolls and other papers concerning United Empire Loyalists who settled in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. With nearly 19,000 references to loyalists, this collection will be a great start for research into maritime loyalist families.

BEYOND THE CANADIAN GENEALOGY CENTRE

The following databases can be searched through Archivianet (www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/):

Canadian Patents

Do you have any Canadian inventors in the family? Find out by searching this database of more than 14,000 fully digitized patents registered from 1869 to 1894 (soon to be extended to 1919). The information includes the name of the patent holder, patent number, patent title, date of filing, city and province.

Photographs

LAC also has a huge photograph collection (more than 22 million images and 41,000 digital images online), including special collections on nurses and war footage. The Framing Canada exhibit showcases those images that have been digitized with thematic photo essays.

Government Files

The federal government of Canada and its various departments and agencies have created a huge col-

lection of files over the years. This database contains more than a million descriptions of these files plus more than 50,000 digital images. The scope and range of records included here is too vast to describe adequately. Suffice it to say that, if you have ancestors who lived in Canada for any length of time, you may want to try searching this database. You may be surprised at what you find.

RESEARCH TOOLS

These two final tools will save you lots of time searching for Canadian publications:

AMICUS

<http://amicus.collectionscanada.ca/aaweb/aalogine.htm>

AMICUS is a meta-catalog for more than 1,300 libraries across Canada (including LAC). It is a handy way of finding out which library holds the book, magazine, newspaper, government document, thesis, sound recording, map or electronic text that you need. Once you locate an item of interest, you can then borrow it through your local library's participation in interlibrary loan.

Canadian Newspapers on Microfilm held by the LAC

www.collectionscanada.ca/8/18/index-e.html

As the name implies, this is a list-

ing of all the newspapers the LAC has on microfilm (by province/territory, then alphabetical by place of publication). While this is the most comprehensive collection in Canada (more than 2,300 titles), do not assume that if LAC doesn't have it, it doesn't exist. Also check with the nearest public library and/or provincial archive.

THERE'S MORE

This has not been an exhaustive description of what's available at LAC's website, just a taste of the most frequently used genealogically relevant resources. Have a look yourself, and don't be put off by the many layers of this site. Once you start peeling them back, you'll find yourself truly impressed by what you can learn about your Canadian ancestors and Canadian research.



Janice Nickerson is a professional genealogist based in Toronto, Canada. Her website is www.uppercanadagenealogy.com

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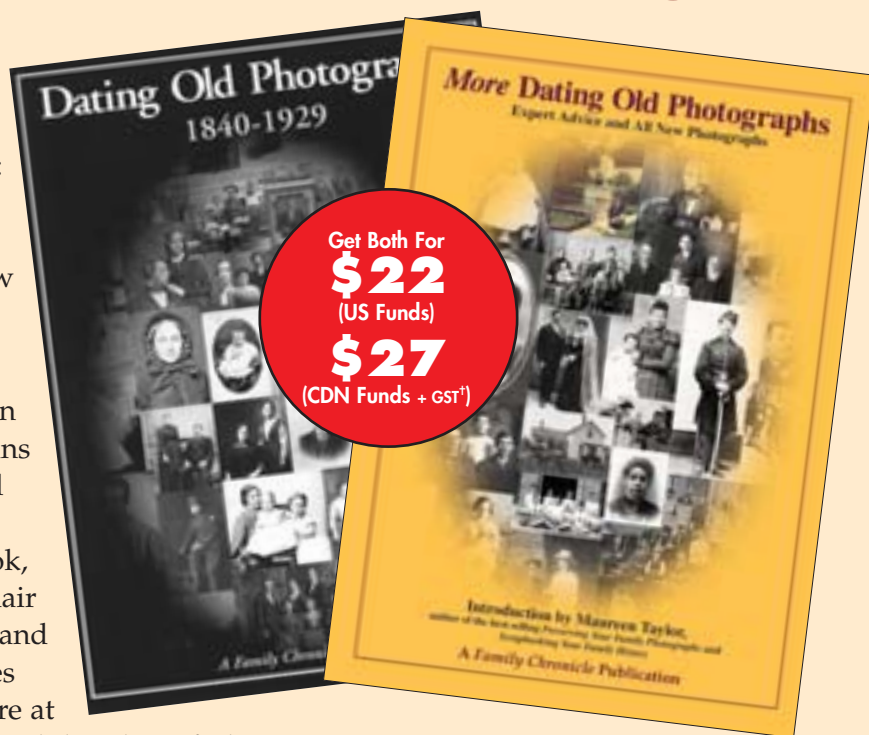
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"The best part of [*Dating Old Photographs*] is the examples."
— Dick Eastman, Dick Eastman Online

"*Dating Old Photographs* is a must-have for anyone interested in dating old photos."
— Kimberly Powell, About.com

Bringing the “Back” of a Photo into the Digital World

WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT to be able to easily label old family photos in order to identify people in the pictures and record stories about them? Digital photography brings new opportunities and new challenges. On one hand, you scan the old photos, use special techniques to restore pictures, burn them onto a CD and not worry that the passage of time will degrade and deteriorate the quality of the image.

On the other hand, digital pictures do not have a backside where you can write comments. With paper photos, notes can be written on the back, so they were always stored and shared together with the photo. When your grandmother sent her family photo to her old classmate, she could be sure a recipient would see both the picture and her comments. In today's world, we have more ways for sharing and social networking. Blogs, e-mail and websites allow us to make our family photos available to millions of other people. This opens up new opportunities to find distant relatives, get assistance in identifying unknown people or perhaps meet someone familiar with your ancestors.

Picture this scenario: You open a group family picture in a special computer program and place textual labels that describe individual persons directly on the photo. In each label you type identification information, such as the name of the person, dates of birth and death, brief notes about the role he or she played in the family history, or possibly a link to a website for more data. As the labels are not imprinted into the picture, the original photo remains intact. You then only click a button to hide the labels or make them visible.

Once you annotate several family photos in this way, you may easily find a specific person by entering the name in the search

field. The program will search across the labels and immediately find all pictures with this person.

If you want to share an annotated photo, you simply click another button and select a blog on Blogger.com, a journal on LiveJournal or your account on Flickr where you want to publish the picture. You wait for a few seconds and your photo is already there with all your labels preserved. Now your family photos

photo, type a free text and create a linking line which points to a specific person. Each tag can have an arbitrary location and even be placed out of the image boundaries. It is especially useful when the photo is too small and you do not want the labels to overlap the original view. When you need to tag a group of people, you can do it by creating a region that includes several persons.

To hide the tags, simply click a



With FotoTagger, you can add “tags” to your digital images and add a linking line which points to a specific person, as shown above. Each tag can have an arbitrary location and can even be placed outside of the image’s boundaries.

Original image submitted by Mary M. Holland and taken from *Dating Old Photographs, 1840-1929*

with all people identified are available to your readers.

This is how FotoTagger, the free software tool developed by Cogitum LC, works. If you are a family historian who wants to record identification information about ancestors and family members on photos from your archive, FotoTagger is for you.

It lets you add a tag on a

button on the toolbar and get the original view. Your family photos remain intact — if you open the picture in any image viewer, the tags will not appear. However, they are not gone. Your tags always stay with the image being embedded in an ordinary JPEG file. This is the main idea of the FotoTagger image annotation technology. While data about tags and

their positioning are located in the same file where image information is stored, they are separated from each other, keeping the original image intact.

That is why annotated photos can be easily shared without the risk of losing identification tags. With FotoTagger, you can publish photos to your blog on Blogger.com, your journal on LiveJournal or even to a set on your Flickr account. In the latter case, FotoTagger tags are converted into Flickr notes so you can edit them by using Flickr tools. Moreover, if you download a photo accompanied by Flickr notes to FotoTagger, they are transformed to editable FotoTagger tags.

If you have your own website, you might want to publish the tagged photo on its pages. FotoTagger can generate an HTML page that contains the picture with your annotations along with a link that hides the tags.

Another way to show the tagged photos to someone who does not have FotoTagger is to use a feature that merges the tags with the image so they can be always visible.

As your family photos are annotated, FotoTagger lets you easily find people by their names or other text typed in tags across piles of digital pictures. You have no need to use old-fashioned techniques in trying to meaningfully name the file or create a hierarchy of folders on your hard disk. Enter the name of a person you are looking for and FotoTagger will find all pictures where this person is captured.

Leonid Malkov, president of Cogitum, says FotoTagger brings the backside of a photo to the digital world. With paper photography, notes could be written on the back, so they were always stored and shared with the picture. When digital photography came along, the back side went as a remnant of the past. The FotoTagger goal is to revive the back side, but with a completely new quality that adds a new value to family photos.

With FotoTagger, you can gain even more opportunities to share your family history and getting help in identifying family photos. Based on the FotoTagger image annotation technology, Cogitum launched a web project, called FotoTagger Galleries, <http://galleries.fototagger.com>. This is the first Internet collection of annotated images in various areas, including genealogy and family

history. You can think of the Galleries as a visual encyclopedia. As tags describe individual elements, people and parts of the picture, extra knowledge can be retrieved from each image.

For example, the Galleries contain annotated photos that demonstrate some techniques which could be used in dating old photos (Go to Galleries and then click Genealogy under the History category). The tags point to different clues, such as hair style, dress or furniture, and explain how these details can be interpreted.

With free registration, the Galleries allow you to contribute your own pictures. Tag photos with FotoTagger and then upload them to the Galleries.

What kind of content can you contribute? Publish photos dated by you with important clues tagged, upload genealogy documents, such as WWI draft card registrations or census records, with labels that help interpret the records, or just submit family history photos that may interest your fellow genealogists. You can contribute photos to an already existing category or create your own subcategory and put a link to your site or genealogy blog. Registered users may post comments to the uploaded photos so you can get feedback from your readers and probably meet new friends with the same interests.

The search in Galleries brings you only relevant results because it searches across tags associated with individual elements of the image rather than keywords related to the whole picture.

FotoTagger is free for personal, non-commercial use. It is easy-to-use and does not require significant resources on your computer. So if you need to record identification data on people in family photos, emphasize important details on old pictures, provide more information about individual elements on images, and share genealogy information with other people, FotoTagger can help you a lot. You can download it from www.fototagger.com.



The FotoTagger Galleries is an Internet-based collection of annotated images and many are genealogy related.



Alex Masycheff is a content analyst and product manager at Cogitum LC, www.cogitum.com, a provider of software solutions for personal content management, based in Ashburn, VA. Alex advises genealogists on how Cogitum solutions can be used for their needs.



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Finnish Resources

I CAN'T SAY ENOUGH about the Genealogy Society of Finland's HisKi Church Records, www.genealogia.fi/indexe.htm and Institute of Migration — Emigrant Register, www.migrationinstitute.fi/index_e.php.

Before the HisKi Church record entries were put online, one had to look at handwritten microfilm records in Swedish and Finnish. Before the Emigrant Register was available, one was limited to researching emigrants only about their arrival in the US; now you can research their departure from Finland.

Both of these websites have wonderful English-language interfaces and the majority of what you research will be presented in English, though the HisKi database does contain some Finnish and Swedish terms. I will suggest some handy resources to help you translate those.

Having researched family extensively in the Finnish records, a search in the HisKi Church record database not only confirmed what had been found previously (after painstaking researching and translating), it also revealed some overlooked ancestors and some information that I had not fully appreciated in the original record. Though I had less success with the Emigrant Register, the Migration Institute is also available to assist with research and a Swedish passenger record was eventually found for a hard-to-find family (Kujanpää) by using that service.

HisKi Church Records

www.genealogia.fi/indexe.htm

Though I will focus on the HisKi Church records available from the Genealogy Society of Finland, do not overlook these other resources available on the website: The Parishes of Finland (nice overview information of the parishes, location and the available records), Emigration Articles and Books (many in Finnish and Swedish and some available in English), Biographical Indexes, Personal Names, Finnish Cemeteries (many records of cemeteries in Finland with photographs), Churches (Finnish Churches in America) and a Picture Gallery (worldwide)!

For most parishes, the church



records available cover from the parish formation to about the mid to late 1800s. Note: For more modern records, you will need to contact the church or a local researcher. To search the church records, click on "HisKi — Church Records" in the left-hand column. Next, click on "search program for history books". This brings you to a page that has an alphabetical list of parishes on the left and on the right has a country map showing provinces and other regional elements.

First, let's explore the list. I had many generations of the Kujanpää family, previously named Lammi, and many allied families who were from Ylistaro, Vaasa, Finland. To search on these records, scroll down the list until you see Ylistaro and then you highlight it. Next, click "selected" and you are taken to a page that lists the Ylistaro records available, states during what time period they are available and gives you a list of the neighboring parishes (as in the US and Canada, it was not unusual for individuals to marry in adjacent parishes, so, if you do not find a baptism, marriage or burial entry where you expect to, check out the neighboring communities, especially for marriages and burials).

Each search screen is somewhat different so let's focus on the one for baptism. You can put as much or as little in the search screen. You can put one piece of information, you can put a partial piece of information (say the first three letters of a name), or you can fill in every box. This is a very powerful



The available Ylistaro records.

search tool! I have used the first initials of first names, last names and patronymics and been able to find information.

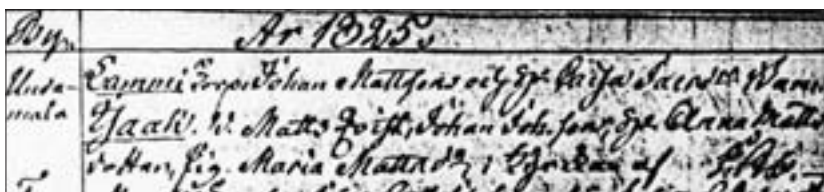
A search on village = Undamala and surname = Lammi, gives the following result:

Ylistaro - christened

- Birth place - village: UNDAMALA => Undamala, Undamala by, Undamala Lehen by, Undamala Lehen by
- Birth place - farm: UNDAMALA => Undamala gd, Undamala, Undamala et Rautso gd
- Father's last name: LAMMI => Lammi, Larummi

Born	Christened	Village	Farm	Father	Mother	Child
16.12.1728	18.12.1728	Undamala		And. Lammi	Walb. Ehre dr.	Susanna
14.8.1734	18.8.1734	Undamala		And. Lammi	Walb. Erichs dr.	Matheus
30.10.1747	1.11.1747	Undamala		Jacob Lammi	Walb: Ers dr	Mårten
1.6.1791	5.6.1791	Undamala		Matts Matts. Lammi	Mar. Jac. dr.	Johannes

The Lammi family was one of the first in Ylistaro, arriving c.1690. These search results show the first generation of the family born in Ylistaro. We find: Birth date, baptism date, village, farm, father's full name, mother's full name and child's name. A sample of an 1825 baptism entry for this family is shown here:



An 1825 baptism entry.

When you search on marriage, the entries will include: Marriage date, village of man, farm of man, man, wife, village of wife and farm of wife. For a burial entry, the information provided is: Death date, village, farm, person, cause (see translation resources below for help with these terms) and age (given in years, months, weeks and days).

Interestingly, after this period, my

family used patronymics for several generations with no surname and subsequently they used the surname Kujanpää. How we could always link these families was through the farm (Lammi) and the village (Undamala, sometimes spelled



The Kujanpää farmstead.

Untamala). That farm still exists today!

Now let's go back and explore the map on the HisKi main page. This feature is handy if you only happen to know that your family came from some place like Vaasa, Finland, since Vaasa is both a parish and a county located in the Province of Ostrobothnia (or you only know what province). We happen to know that the city of Vaasa/Vasa (Finnish/Swedish) is in Region #15 on the map. When you click on a region, the left hand menu then lists out the communities in the region. You can now either click "all" to search in all of these communities or you can highlight one or more (use control, left-click for a PC mouse) and then click "selected".

Now you see a table that summarizes what records are available for each community. You can then select a community or do a global search across the records of the identified communities.

Note that this database is still a work in progress and so you may find that the records of a certain parish are not yet available. Also, these are transcriptions and are not without errors. Since the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has microfilmed most of these records, you can access copies of the original records locally to verify what you find.

TRANSLATING HISKI CHURCH RECORDS

Don't let those Finnish and Swedish terms frustrate you. For years, we have relied on these resources to help us with Finnish and Swedish genealogy records. These will not give you a full translation and enough that you will know the person's name (and with patronymics the first name of the father), occupation, social status, marital status, age at death, what someone died of, etc. Note that all these resources list the Finnish, Swedish and English terms. It was not unusual for records to have a blend of Swedish and Finnish terms used and then history played a part in deciding which language was used for records, when.

For common terms and abbreviations, go to <http://members.aol.com/DSSaari/guideab.htm>. For a Swedish-Finnish Word List (plus English), visit <http://members.aol.com/dssaari/wordlis2.htm>. Information on occupation abbreviations used in HisKi can be found at www.engr.uvic.ca/~syli/geneo/abbreviations/occupation.html. Finally, FamilySearch.org has an exten-

HISKI CHURCH RECORDS SEARCH ENGINE

WHY IS THIS POWERFUL search feature important? Since you are dealing with two different languages, spelling variations across each language (Finnish and Swedish) and the ever evolving use of patronymics and surnames (it was not unusual for a family to change its name when they moved to a new farm), you need a powerful way to search on records and not have to perform many searches.

For example, when names are written in Finnish and Swedish, often (though not always) the first part of a name remains constant and the last section is what changes. Poika and tytär are Finnish naming conventions meaning “son of” and “daughter of” and the equivalent Swedish conventions (records were in both languages) are son (though that is an abbreviation of *sonen* *söner*) and *dotter*. So you might see

Matinpoika or Mattsson — these are the same person. Or, you might see Lisa Matintytär or Lisa Mattsdotter (often abbreviated to Mattsdr or any number of variants). So, if you search on Mat or Lisa Mat... you will find this individual regardless of whether the record was in Swedish or Finnish and regardless of what abbreviation or convention was used in the original record or the transcription.

sive Finnish and Swedish word list, go to www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/RG/frameset_rhelps.asp (this takes you to the Research Helps area, under Research Guidance, under Research). Then, click on “F” and you’ll see the Finnish Genealogical Word List, and click on “S” and scroll till you see the Swedish Genealogical Word List. For \$1.25 us you can purchase a print version of each of these and that can be easier than having to search letter by letter for the terms you want translated.

Each of the Word Lists has an upfront piece that talks about the language and its rules — very helpful, especially to know the order of the alphabet since after “z” you then have ä for Finnish and å, ä and ö for Swedish.

EMIGRANT REGISTER

www.migrationinstitute.fi/index_e.php

My next favorite Finnish resource is the Emigrant Register available through the Institute of Migration. This Register currently contains almost one million entries! This is a resource that has really

grown in the last few years in terms of the data available. When I first explored this website, you could check passenger records (Finnish Steamship Company, 1892-1910, 318,000 records) and passport records (1890-1950, 189,000 records). This list has been expanded to include: References to books and newspapers (19,000 records), Register of Australian Finns (3,800 records), Register of New Zealand Finns (1,100 records), Finnish North Americans (146,000), Finnish emigrants (“Sheriff’s records”, Vaasa province, 39,000) and Finnish farm names, including family names (Vaasa and Oulu provinces, 155,000).

In addition to the Emigrant Register, which we will explore further, the website also contains: A database of its library (more than 9,000 publications), a sample of photos (several hundred of the more than 12,000 in the collection) and the Migration and Ethnicity Research Network. You can access all these by looking under the heading “Online Databases” in the left-hand navigation.

The Arctic Circle may run through Finland, but that doesn't mean that the country is always covered in ice and snow.



Finnish Resources

With the addition of more records, the searchable Emigrant Register now has three access options:

- Limited search (free)
- Search basic databases — “Basic Package”, 10 Euro (about \$13 US)
- Search all databases — “Full Package”, 30 Euro (about \$40 US)

For the Limited search, you can search in any of the databases and learn if a name is included. If you want to get

Last name	Rajala
First names	Ida
Age or age group	21
Port of departure	Hanko
Place of destination	Salem
State of destination	MA
Country of destination	USA
Price of ticket	FIM 208
Ship from Finland	Urania
Date of departure from Finland	01.05.1907
Ship from England	Cymric
Date of departure from England	10.05.1907
Ocean Line	White Star Line
Port of departure in England	*
List and page	57/67
Remarks	*

the full details, then you need to have either the basic or full package. The basic package includes the passenger, passport, books and newspapers, Australian Finns and New Zealand Finns. The full package includes the remaining databases, any new databases added, extended services and a genealogy guide. Given all the family I have in Vaasa

province, the full package made sense for my research and the great thing is that you can first do a “free” search and see what value these databases may have to your research.

To get started, you click on one of the three access options and if you have a paid subscription, you will enter your username/password combination. Otherwise, you choose which database you would like to search. They can only be searched one at a time. Let’s start with “Passenger Lists” since this is one of the largest databases and so one is more likely to have success.

Your search options are basic — Name search (Last name, First name) or Sounds like search (Last name, First name). Like the HisKi database, you only have to enter as much data as you want to. So, if you have a surname that can be misspelled (or you don’t want to deal with the special character letters), you can just enter the first few letters of a last name or first name (no special characters are needed). For example, if I put in Raj for the last name, the surnames that come up are Raj, Raja, Raja-Aho, Rajahalme, until you come to Rajala (the last entry). My father’s

great-grandmother, Ida Rajala, emigrated in 1907. We have found her in the Ellis Island database, so let’s see if she is listed in this database and what we can learn.

Pictured to the left is the entry we find for her. And, we find out some information we did not know from the New York Passenger Manifest. We learn how much she paid for her ticket, we also learn what ship she took from Finland to her port of departure (England) and we learn what date she departed from Finland and then from England. And, if we had not already had her Ellis Island information, this would have given us the information to pinpoint which ship and on what date she sailed to facilitate getting the associated Castle Garden, Ellis Island or other passenger record.

Let’s take a moment to explore one of the newer databases, the Finnish Farm names (Vaasa and Oulu). For Finnish research, the ability to identify the village and then farm greatly enhances your ability to search for and obtain records. These records seem to cover the mid 1800s. I looked at the Parish of Ylistaro, Untamala Village (if you remember the example from the HisKi database search). Voila, it shows the farm of my ancestors! I also learn that there were about eight other families living on this same farm. That was new information to me.

Let me reiterate that these are wonderful resources for Finnish research. You can now sit at a computer and delve into Finnish records dating from the early 20th century back to the early 1700s, if not earlier. You can do this using an easy-to-use English-language interface. You do not have to understand a word of Finnish or Swedish to learn about when your ancestors were born, baptized, married, died/buried, emigrated, etc. Though, if you want to learn about their status (e.g. farm owner or laborer), occupation or cause of death, the suggested word lists will tell you the meaning of about 95 percent of the terms that you will come across.

Happy hunting for those Finnish ancestors!



Diane L. Richard has been doing genealogy research for about 18 years. She is now the Wake County, NC GenWeb coordinator, does professional research and can be found online at www.mosaicrpm.com/Genealogy.

It's Not On The 'Net: Now What?



DIANE L. RICHARD LOOKS AT WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU CAN'T FIND IT ONLINE

LET ME START BY stating that I always find that I cannot complete a research project solely by using the Internet — and believe me, I have tried! There is always a point where essential information and documents are only available via fax and/or snail mail and/or a personal visit. This is said by someone who has been doing genealogy and using the Internet since the advent of the World Wide Web — in fact, even before the Internet as we know it, I used newsgroups!

Since I have never lived anywhere near where my family originated or lived, I have always done my research remotely. Even now that I do genealogy research professionally, I continue to make extensive use of Internet-based resources. With the plethora of resources coming online, I am always looking for new ones and revisiting old ones (which are frequently updated with new information).

For all the information available online, there is still so much that is not yet available to the Internet genealogist! If that's the case, when is the right time to turn off the computer and reach for paper and pencil or your phone? Here are some signs that it is time to shift from Internet-based research to other more conventional avenues.

EXCELLENT LOCAL RESOURCES

The Sign — After visiting Linkpendium, www.linkpendium.com/genealogy/USA/, for your state or county, you realize that there is

a) very little listed, b) you have already checked out all that is listed, c) you still don't know anything about great-grandpa James and d) you learn that there is a local history library and/or genealogy society offering very affordable research services.

What — Many communities have a wonderful local history library and/or genealogy society that offers low cost or donation-based research services. These are frequently staffed by volunteers and are a delight to work with! Many of these local history libraries and/or genealogy societies have web pages that will tell you how much money (\$) to send and there is often a form you can fill out giving the details of what you need. And, the society frequently lists what resources it has available to it to perform the research. Some services that I have recently used and been satisfied with include:

- Hemet-San Jacinto Genealogical Society (CA), www.hsjgs.org/research.htm (\$)
- CCKG-HS (KS), <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/cherokee/society/cckghs.html> (\$)
- Cabell County Public Library (WV), <http://cabell.lib.wv.us/pages/depts.htm> (\$)
- Old Fort Scott Genealogical Society of Southeastern Kansas (KS), <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/society/ftscott/> (\$)
- Sno-Isle Genealogical Society (WA), <http://rootsweb.com/~wasigs/> (\$)

Of course, there are many

other research services provided by local genealogy, history and library societies, so do a little digging for what's available to you.

Why — 1. Many printed publications (books, journals, newsletters, newspapers, etc.) have been produced over the last three centuries, most of these have not been digitized and many of the indices have not been digitized. 2. Select documents have been digitized and are available for sale. Unless you believe that the publication would be a great addition to your personal library, you may not want the expense of purchasing it. 3. The local library/society can research this and many other local resources for the same or less cost. 4. Local knowledge of documents, trends, history, resources, etc., is invaluable. No matter how much I learn via the Internet or think I know of an area... someone local always knows about the "hidden" research gems.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

The Sign — You have reason to believe that a will was filed or that your family owned property or that a family member died (or was married) in the community. You may or may not have found the documents (through GenWeb

When It's Not on the 'Net

archives, www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/, or similar local repositories) or indices available via the web for these events. You really want this information to learn who the heirs were or who property was transferred to or maybe it's the parents of a deceased individual or couple that you seek.

What — Though death (and marriage) certificates are typically also available at the state level (you may want to obtain them locally as often it is less expensive and quicker to do so), most probate and deeds transaction documents are only kept at the county level. Though many communities are expanding their offerings of indices for deeds and probate, you can typically only obtain the document by sending a check and a SASE. Typically you will send a check with a note indicating the limit that is payable. Some services that I have recently used and been very satisfied with include:

- Donna Spencer, Catawba County Register of Deeds (NC) — birth, marriage, death records: www.co.catawba.nc.us/depts/regdeed/ (\$)
- Sally Smith Howe, Court Clerk, Tulsa County (OK) — probate: www.courtclerk.tulsacounty.org/ (\$)
- Town of Oxford, Office of the Town Clerk (MA) — death certificates: www.town.oxford.ma.us/Town_Clerk.htm (\$)
- Lawrence County Public Library (KY) — marriage certificates: www.lawrencecountypubliclibrary.org/genealogyrequest.htm (\$)

And many other branches of local government (city or county) who have been most helpful.

Why — You have exhausted all means of obtaining these documents via the Internet and they are important to your research. These are probably the types

Though death (and marriage) certificates are typically also available at the state level, most probate and deeds transaction documents are kept at the county level.

of documents that you most likely will have to pay to obtain and most likely cannot use the Internet to do so. Once you identify the appropriate jurisdiction holding the documents, find out the contact information — frequently they will post any fees involved in

searching for and/or copying the requested document(s). Note: Many jurisdictions do charge a search fee and then a separate copying charge applies. Whether the document is found or not, you will still have to pay the search fee.

And, many documents are still kept at only the local level. As previously stated, sometimes, copies of the documents are kept at both the local and state level. In this case, you will typically find that you will pay less and have to wait less time if you request the record through the local authority.

OBITUARIES AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

The Sign — You have exhausted Ancestry.com's newspaper collection and/or the Godfrey Memorial Library, www.godfrey.org, newspaper access and/or ProQuest (via your local library or other portal) and/or the newspaper's own electronic archives (e.g. *New York Times*, <http://pqasb.pqarchiver.com/nytimes/advancedsearch.html>, *Chicago Tribune*, <http://pqasb.pqarchiver.com/chicagotribune/advancedsearch.html>, *The Newtown Bee* (CT), www.newtownbee.com/Search.asp) and/or a local libraries obituary index (e.g. St. Louis Public Library, www.slpl.lib.mo.us/libsrc/obit.htm, Duluth Obituaries, <http://dlibrary.cpinternet.com/scripts/runisa.dll?dlibrary:pgobitsearch>) and/or Online Searchable Death Indexes, Records & Obituaries, www.deathindexes.com, and/or any other source for this information. If you have reached this point and your target newspaper and/or obituaries are not online, this is the time to contact a local library and/or genealogy society.

What — Many local libraries (often at the county level) will have a history and/or genealogy section. Normally they are the best repository for the archives of local newspapers and often they will have a service where they can economically (or for free) provide the requested obituary. Sometimes they have created an index that you reference and other times you will be asked to provide a specific name and death date. Some services that I've recently used and been quite satisfied with include:

- Indiana Room, Anderson Public Library (IN), www.and.lib.in.us/indianaroom/ — various databases, including obituaries and then you can request a copy (usually no charge)
- Oakland Public Library (CA),

www.oaklandlibrary.org/RemoteRefFiles/form/familyhistory.html — various services, including obituaries (\$)

- St. Joseph County Public Library (IN), <http://sjcpl.lib.in.us/aboutsjcpl/departments/localhistory/localhistory.html> — South Bend Tribune Obituary Index and other databases and services (\$)
- Everett Public Library, Northwest Room (WA), www.epls.org/nw/ (there can be a charge)
- Contra Costa County Library, Obituary Request (CA), www.ccclib.org/ask/question/obit_form.html (Free)
- Brooklyn Public Library, Brooklyn Collection (NY), www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/brooklyncollection/ (there can be a charge)

Why — 1. You really need a copy to learn about parents, marriages, children, locations, etc. and the newspaper of interest is not available digitally. 2. Newspapers are not typically something that is readily available through interlibrary loan or Family History Centers.

FUNERAL HOME RECORDS

The Sign — You have found where the individuals are buried and their tombstones tell you little. It's not clear if an obituary was published and you are having no success learning more about your research subjects. Even if there is an obituary published, you feel that it may be less than complete. Don't overlook the records of the funeral home involved!

What — If you can learn which funeral home, or if the community is small enough, get a list of all the funeral homes and make contact! Frequently, a "Google", www.google.com, or other search will reveal local funeral homes, their address and phone number (you can sometimes find an e-mail address or fax number). My experience is that most funeral homes do not have a web presence. And, local history and/or genealogy societies websites sometimes discuss funeral homes and their history. It's not uncommon for a funeral home from the early 1900s to have merged with another local funeral home and for the records to have survived. For example:

- Harford Funeral Home, Hemet (CA), www.dirmapsusa.com/hemet-sanjacinto/Hemet-SanJacintoDir2005.pdf. I used the Chamber of Commerce

Directory to obtain a fax number, as a Google search only gave me the address and phone number. I faxed them with a request and a week later, I received an envelope that was full of information!

- Evergreen Cemetery, Everett (WA), www.evergreenfuneralcemetery.com/template/three.asp?lid=2040&plid=&mid=21. I found their website easily, sent an e-mail and within a week, I received a fax with some great information and a second packet in the mail with further details and information!

Since it's fairly easy to get a death certificate or obituary, only in rare instances will I contact the funeral

Though the Internet has become a wonderful genealogy resource, sometimes what you want is not online and you'll need to use "old fashioned" research techniques to obtain the information you need.

home. However, if the funeral home (or its records) still exists and I have made an inquiry, I've always been able to get some wonderful information.

Why — Funeral home records can be a goldmine of information. They tell you the details of the person, they also tell you where they are buried (and the details of those involved) and often include the contact information and relationship of the person whom they were dealing with. They also collect the information for the obituary and often note in which newspapers it was published.

Though the Internet is a wonderful resource for doing your genealogy research, sometimes what you want is not online and you'll need to use "old-fashioned" research techniques to obtain the information you need. So, don't be surprised if you have to turn off the computer for a bit and dig out those postage stamps — and, you may find that the pause in your research gives you some time to really think about your research! I have done some of my best problem solving while I wait for the mail! Or, I write some of my pieces for publication... as with paint drying, waiting for the mail always seems to go slower when you are "watching"!



Diane L. Richard has been doing genealogy research for almost 20 years. She currently does professional research in NC and has never lived where any of her ancestors migrated from or to! So, she is very experienced with using the Internet (since its inception) to do research and she can be found online at www.mosaicrpm.com/Genealogy





Your Genealogy

WHEN YOU'RE TRACING your family history, it's inevitable that at some point you'll begin to uncover hundreds of relatives. Whilst some people may find it easy to keep track of who's who and who's related to who, the amount of information can become overwhelming. What's more, the problem isn't helped by families who continue giving their children the same first names, creating numerous generations of Johns, Hughs or Williams. If you're facing an information overload situation, then one solution is to try blogging your family history.

Blogging is all the rage, with millions of people worldwide writing online blogs. Put simply, the word "blog" is an abbreviation of "weblog" and a weblog is an online journal. For genealogists and family history researchers, novice or otherwise, blogging offers a useful way of recording and sharing vital information. When you've discovered several generations of ancestors, you often reach a point where it becomes hard to keep track of everyone. Or perhaps you understand it fully and can instantly recognize who's who, yet when you try to explain it all to someone else, their eyes glaze over and they quickly lose track of who on earth is related to who.

It's these scenarios that blogging is fantastically useful for aiding, as it offers a great tool for

writing it all out, in easily explainable chunks and for linking back to other relations or relevant snippets of details. For those with family abroad or far away, but wanting to be kept in touch with what you're doing, blogging is also

Blogging is all the rage, with millions of people worldwide writing online blogs.

ideal. As you progress, it's likely you'll come across others researching the same lines or distant relatives, and communicating your latest finds through your blog is a good way of keeping abreast of your research.

GETTING STARTED WITH A BLOG

It may all sound a bit technical, but thankfully the art of blogging isn't that tricky and anyone can give it a try. You don't need expensive software or heaps of technical knowledge — just the desire to give it a go and get writing. Free blogging tools are now commonplace on the 'net, with many offering an ideal platform for creating a blog in the easiest way possible. Of course, if you're more Internet savvy and have your own website and domain,

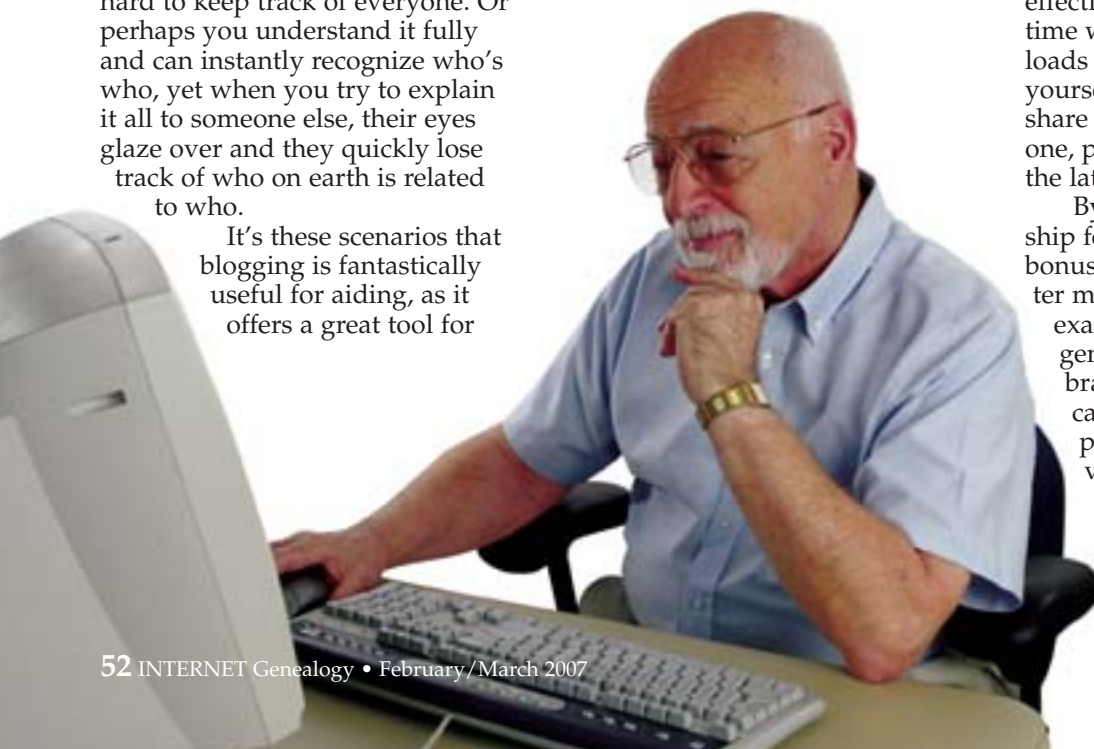
you can go one step further and do it yourself, but for personal and informal blogs for beginners, you can't go wrong using one of the main blogging sites.

Some of the simple and easy-to-use sites are Blogger, www.blogger.com, Live Journal, www.livejournal.com and WordPress, <http://wordpress.com>. All are hassle-free and effective. With each of these, you can get a web-hosted blog where you can stick to the basic features and design, and simply write your entries, or customize the look and feel of your blog to make it unique to you. If you don't mind paying to blog, TypePad, www.sixapart.com/typepad/index, offers a similar service to WordPress, but has the added addition of technical help.

Obviously, they each have different features and quirky extras, so it's worth exploring to find the option that suits you best. At Live Journal, for example, you can select who can view each posting, giving you the option and flexibility to publish some posts for everyone to read, others for friends only or some for your eyes only. The latter option may seem beside the point, but it can work effectively. For example, if it's a time when you're keen to make loads of notes and records for yourself, but don't yet want to share the information with everyone, perhaps until you've cracked the latest piece of the puzzle.

By paying an extra membership fee, you can also get other bonuses, such as the ability to filter messages. This means, for example, that if you're writing genealogy posts about various branches of your family you can filter the posts, so only the people to which they're relevant see them.

All the sites have the ability to let you post images, so you can include pictures of relatives, their homes or certificates, and you can



post links to other sites or genealogical resources. Many of them now support the ability to post updates from your mobile phone too, or add audio messages. You can also add tags to your posts, such as, "Hugh, hospital, illness", or, "immigration, Africa, Jones", to denote the key issues discussed in each post. If you need to search back at a future time for certain information, these tags will be useful.

HELPING YOU GET TO GRIP WITH WHO'S WHO

It's not surprising that other people sometimes get lost understanding who's who in your research, especially when you've gone back several generations and unearthed numerous people. But there are times when even you are likely to become puzzled by it all.

Writing a blog can work well with handling this issue. Not only can you search back to find previous entries relating to the person or persons you're confused about, but it also lets you write bite-size chunks about each one person. So if there's some useful identifying characteristics about one person or some snippets of information you think are relevant, you can enter these on a bite-size blog post. The joy of blogging is that you can write however much or little as you want — it may seem tiny or lengthy to others, but if it makes sense to you, it doesn't matter.

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

Part of the beauty of blogs, like publishing your genealogy research on the Internet, is that ultimately it could bring relatives together. Most of the sites give you the option of having your blog picked up by search engines, such as Google, so the contents can be highlighted in searches anyone does. Google, for example, even has its own tool for searching through blogs.

In my own instance, I chose to have my genealogy blog, *www.piecingtogetherthepast.blogspot.com*, accessible by anyone, with the hope that in the future someone may be searching for a name and it would bring up my blog. Much to my surprise, that's happened on a few occasions, so it does work.

As well as people linked to your research in some way, a blog is a great tool for getting to know other genealogists. On most of the sites, you can choose to have your blog listed under a certain category and Live Journal has

an active range of communities which you can post to, including several focusing on genealogy. It's a great way of encouraging like-minded people to read your blog and, through browsing and commenting on their blogs, you can build up a network of virtual friends.

FROM BLOG TO BOOK

Another benefit of having a blog is that you'll be building a great resource of written anecdotes and information that could potentially be used as the basis for a book at a later stage. It's a huge help to have everything in one place and, although your entries may be written randomly, you can search through them easily, gather your entries and re-organize in another document if you wish.

Until recently, a site called Blog Binders would convert your blog into a bound book. Sadly, they're no longer running, but other self-publishing companies, such as Lulu.com, *www.lulu.com*, are certainly worth exploring if you want to publish your blog in book form. It's especially useful for any relatives who

aren't online or aren't into blogging, plus it gives you the chance to have a long-lasting archival record in print format. Of course, you could print copies of everything yourself, but having it contained within the pages of a book gives a professional look.

For those using LiveJournal, a site called LJBook, *www.ljbook.com/*, can turn your blog into a PDF document, which can then be printed. It's free to use, straightforward and is produced in less than five minutes!

Blogging has proved to be a huge hit and, for genealogy purposes, it has added benefits. Whether used as another way to keep family history records, as a means of sharing with family or friends, or even to share research with a wider community, it's a medium well worth exploring.

Blogging has proved to be a big hit with the general public and, for genealogy purposes, it has added benefits.



Rachel Newcombe is a freelance writer, editor and researcher. She's an avid fan of genealogy and loves the challenge of piecing together the past. She can be found on the web at www.newcombe.co.uk/media



Deciphering Old Handwriting

ALMOST ALL THE old documents we use in our research are handwritten and those from the late 19th century are not usually too difficult to read. However, older documents can present problems in writing styles.

Until I tried to do it, I wouldn't have believed how difficult it could be to decipher old handwriting. Occasionally I went through the whole document looking for words that I could make out well enough to identify. I copied each letter as it appeared and its modern equivalent. Then I went through it again, filling in the letters that I could identify. Now I recognized a few more words and had a few more letters.

The process was repeated until decipherment was complete. It was like doing a cryptogram and I ended up with a "cheat sheet" for the lettering styles of that writer. We do not always write our letters in the same way, especially if they are at the beginning of or in the middle of a word, and neither did the scribes of old.

Before the mid-17th century, most English documents were written in a style called "Secretary Hand". It was developed in the 16th century and was a cursive style in which the pen did not leave the page between the letters.

It was gradually replaced by the "Italic Hand", which was developed in Italy during the Renaissance and was the style of choice in academic circles. It is a little easier for us to read because it is the root of our style of writing.

Old handwriting is known in academic circles as paleography and there are a number of excellent books and articles available on the subject. University libraries would be a good source for these. There are also several excellent websites that can help to prepare us to deal

with these confusing documents.

Sabrina Murray, a Florida genealogist, taught a course on deciphering old handwriting and a lot of the material from that course is presented at: <http://amberskyline.com/treasuremaps/oldhand.html>. This site is a good place to start. It is fairly basic and has lots of links to actual examples of old writing and the abbreviations often used. The only limitation is that the examples are all taken from documents produced in the US and the style of writing can vary a little from that in England or elsewhere.



A British document dated 24 October 1715.

The Finnish Genealogical Society has a site that focuses on old European handwriting styles. They have samples of both upper- and lowercase alphabets from different periods, which is very helpful. You can download or print out these alphabets as working guides or study aids. Their site is at www.genealogia.fi/faq/faq031e.htm.

The National Archives in the UK has produced an online learning resource that should win awards. You can find it at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/palaeography/. There are considerable reference materials on abbreviations, dating, the use of numbers, money and measurements, but the heart of the site is 10 tutorials. Each tutorial

focuses on one document. A discussion of the document and its historical context is followed by specific tips for reading it. The abbreviations used, peculiar forms of letters or words and confusing spellings are noted and related to the numbered line in the document. A glossary is provided for terms used in the document. There is even an alphabet of the letters used in the document and their modern counterparts. An online tutorial allows you to transcribe the document one line at a time and submit for verification. An immediate response will

show you where you have made any errors, if you have made any (I certainly did!). You can download a PDF file of the whole tutorial to your computer. However, I found it easier to print out directly from the screen. You have the option of printing the whole document and the correct transcription of it. This is really worth taking a look at.

If you are dealing with Scottish documents or will be, then I have another resource for you. The Scottish Archive Network has three interactive tutorials online at www.scottishhandwriting.com.

Apparently, they are planning on adding a few more. These tutorials take you through the common Secretary Hand and some of the particulars of its application in Scotland. The second tutorial demonstrates how individual differences develop among writers, just as they do in our time. The third one is an introduction to court records with information on Scottish vocabulary and legal jargon. This is a great resource for the Scottish researcher.

Whatever route you take, developing a facility for reading old handwriting is going to take some time and work, but it is really worth it for the joy of being able to decipher our past.



**Features We Are Working on for
Future Issues of**

History Magazine

**DETACHABLE COLLARS
AND CUFFS:**

David A. Norris
examines the once-
trendy removable paper,
linen and celluloid
collars and cuffs.



HURRICANES:

"Never was the sea so
high, so terrifying...
which seemed like a
sea of blood, seething
like a cauldron," wrote
Christopher Columbus.
Lani Friend looks at
the winds that blew
history off course.



THE WEBSTER TRIAL:

The 1850 murder trial of
John White Webster,
considered to be Amer-
ica's first sensational
court case, attracted
media attention across
the country and abroad.
Phill Jones investigates
what happened.

**A RUSSIAN SOCIAL
EXPERIMENT GONE
WRONG:**

Casimir Kukielka
chronicles the rise and
fall of a 19th-century
Russian utopia.



SUPER TROUBADOURS:

Bursting onto the Euro-
pean scene in the early
12th century, a new
breed of musicians
made ladies' hearts
flutter and set a
radically different style
for knightly courtesy.
Margaret Donsbach
sings their praises.



The features mentioned here are in preparation and are planned for future issues. However, circumstances may affect the final content.

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